

Common Scams to Avoid During the Holiday Season

Sergeant K.C. Bell
WSPD, Financial Crimes Section

Fake Charities

- The holiday seasons are the time when charities typically get most of their donations.
- Be certain you are giving you money to a legitimate charity whether it is solicited by phone, the internet or in person.
- The BBB Wise Giving Alliance provides internet resources to verify if a charity organization is legitimate. www.give.org



Grandparent Scams

- This scam is more frequent during the holidays when people are traveling for family gatherings.
- Scammers will target the elderly with a desperate phone call from someone claiming to be a grandchild or loved one.
- They will claim to be stranded or have other issues where they need money wired to them immediately.
- Call another family member such as their parents or siblings to confirm the story the person calling you is giving.

Grandparent Scams

- Always call the person claiming to be a family member back using a phone number that you are already familiar with as being their phone number, not the number provided by the person on the phone.



Gift Card Scams

- Avoid purchasing gift cards online from anyone but the retailer for that card. You may purchase what is advertised as a discounted gift card only to receive a gift card with zero value.

- Do not purchase gift cards from strangers in parking lots. Again, what is labeled as \$100.00 gift card may actually have zero value.



Gift Card Scams

- Double check that the gift card you purchase from a retailer has not be tampered with.
- Make certain the hidden I.D. code on the back has not been scratched off. This can allow a thief to access the funds after the card has been purchased.



Package Delivery Thefts

Thefts of packages are common during the holiday season.

Thieves will follow package delivery trucks through a neighborhood and steal packages left on door steps.

If no one will be home during the day consider having the package delivered to your work or to a friend or relative who will be home to secure it.



Pickpocket Thefts

- Shopping centers and stores are extremely busy and crowded during the holidays.
- Crowded stores where people are bumping into each other are the perfect place for a pickpocket thief to strike.
- Consider keeping wallets in your front pocket while shopping and keeping your purse zippered or snapped shut if possible.



Keep Valuables Out of Sight

- Auto breakings at shopping centers increase during the holidays.
- Keep purchases in your trunk or out of sight while doing holiday shopping.
- If on an all day shopping excursion for the holidays consider periodically dropping off purchases at home instead of storing in your car.



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