

MediaRoom

Farmers Insurance Offers Holiday Shopping Safety Tips

PRNewswire

Farmers Insurance Group of Companies® reminds holiday shoppers to be "safety-wise" during the heavy shopping time from now through New Year's Day.

(Logo: <http://www.newscom.com/cgi-bin/prnh/20080605/LATH062>)

"Shoppers will be busy this holiday season buying small and large gifts, and wrapping and transporting packages from store to store before taking them home," notes Mark Toohey, Farmers Senior Vice President and head of Media and Public Relations, North America. "Here are some very good safety tips from Farmers on how shoppers can protect their purchases and have a truly safe holiday season."

- Do not leave brightly wrapped packages in your car.
- Be very careful to use ATM's that are in well lit and protected areas.
- Do not go to an ATM outside late at night.
- Park in shopping centers that are well lit at night and ask if the store has escort service to your car.
- Place packages in your trunk, not on the back seat while away from your car.
- Protect your credit cards if used. Do not lay your card down before purchasing items where it can be seen.
- Do not hold a wallet out filled with cash.
- Carry the keys to your car in your hand when walking in a parking lot and unlock your doors before you get to the car so you can get in quickly.

Farmers Insurance would also like to remind shoppers that once they get their gifts home, take a few minutes to go over tips that will help defer burglars from breaking in and taking packages.

- Do not put gifts under the tree in full view of a window, to deter burglars who could break in and steal gifts before the big day.
- Do not put empty boxes out on the street advertising what you bought as it is common for burglars to attack houses knowing they have new bikes, electronics, and other large items.
- Make sure someone's home to sign for packages so they won't be left outside the door.
- Parents also need to be aware that their kids may be vulnerable to theft at school if they go back to school with new phones and iPods. These items in a backpack add up to many hundreds of dollars.

"Just following good safety practices will assure every family has a safe and happy holiday," Toohey added.

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Contact:
Jerry Davies
213-400-4459
Jerry.davies@farmersinsurance.com

First Call Analyst:
FCMN Contact:

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