Personal Safety

TIPS

SHOPPING

▷ Avoid shopping alone. Use the buddy system whenever possible.

▷ Shop before dark and always park in well-lighted areas.

▷ Use waist-pack carriers instead of purses.

▷ Make sure all doors and windows are locked in your vehicle and home.

▷ Do not keep packages in plain view in your vehicle or home.

▷ Do not count cash in open areas, especially after leaving an ATM machine.

▷ Keep your address and home phone number private. When stores request a phone number, give only your work number.

▷ After making a credit card purchase, request the carbon copy and destroy it in private.

▷ Have keys in hand before returning to the vehicle.

▷ As you approach the car, check to see if anyone is hiding underneath or inside.

AT HOME OR APARTMENT

▷ When going out for the evening, turn on lights, a radio, or television to make your home or apartment appear occupied.

▷ If you plan to be out of town for a few days, purchase an automatic timer for lights.

▷ Have a trusted neighbor watch your home and pick up your mail and newspapers. Ask them to park a vehicle in your driveway.

▷ Never let strangers inside your residence.

▷ Keep your garage door closed to prevent thefts.

▷ Immediately after the holidays, mark new purchases and gifts with your driver's license number. You can check out an engraver from the Lancaster Police Department.

COMPUTER SHOPPING

▷ Shop only from well-established and reputable companies. Avoid auction sites if you do not feel comfortable buying or bidding.

▷ Before you give your credit card information, take note of the icons that indicate that security software is in place to secure your purchase.

▷ Print out and date a copy of all terms, conditions, warranties, item description, company information and confirming e-mails. Save this information as a record of your purchase.

▷ Avoid computer viruses and unwanted access to your information by not accepting e-mail from people you do not know.