



PRESS RELEASE

Pursuant to CA Gov't. Code Sect. 6254(f)
San Jose Police Department
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MEDIA ADVISORY

Holiday Shopping Alert

The San Jose Police Department Financial Crimes Unit is investigating a series of grand thefts involving women's wallets. The victims' wallets have been taken from purses left unattended while the victims have been shopping. The thieves then use the victims' credit cards to make purchases at various stores that same day.

Individuals should not leave their purses or wallets unattended while shopping. During the upcoming Holiday Season, criminals will be looking for the opportunity to victimize individuals that do not take precautions to minimize their risk of theft. Only carry a minimal amount of credit cards when out shopping. Do not carry your Social Security Card or PIN numbers in your wallet or purse, leave these items in a secure place at home. Taking the extra time to close your purse and keep it with you while shopping or in public places will reduce the opportunity for thieves to take wallets and other valuables. Do not leave your purse or other valuables in plain sight unattended in your vehicle for any length of time.

Individuals who are victims of similar types of theft should make a police report and contact the credit card companies to cancel the card and contact the three major credit reporting bureaus to place a fraud alert on the cards. For more information on Identity Theft and Credit Card theft, contact your local Police Department or Sheriff's Office or the Federal Trade Commission at <http://www.ftc.gov/>.

Anyone with information on these cases is urged to call the San Jose Police Department Financial Crimes Unit at (408) 277-4521. Persons wishing to remain anonymous may call Crime Stoppers at 408-947-STOP.

BY: Lt. K. Tanaka
DATE: 11-9-07 TIME: 2:00PM

AUTHORIZED BY: Lt. K. Tanaka
DATE: 11-9-07 TIME: 2:00PM

PRESS OFFICER BRIEFED BY UNIT COMMANDER (CIRCLE) **YES NO**