

LOCUST VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT – PUBLIC SAFETY TIPS



Holiday Shopping Safety – Shopping With Children

- 1. Teach your children to stay with you at all times while shopping.** They should always check with you or the person in charge before they go anywhere. Always supervise your children in a public facility and accompany young children to the restroom.
- 2. Make a plan in case you become separated.** Have older kids meet you in a pre-designated spot (e.g. the sales counter or mall information booth). Teach younger children to look for people who can help within the store or mall — a uniformed security officer, a salesperson with a nametag, a mother with children, etc. They should never leave the store/mall or go to the parking lot to look for you or your car.
- 3. Turn shopping trips into opportunities for your children to practice these “safe shopping” skills.**
- 4. Leave clothing that displays your children’s names at home,** as it can prompt unwelcome attention from people who may be looking for an opportunity to start a conversation with your children.
- 5. Never leave children in toy stores or public facilities** (e.g. video arcades, movie theaters, playgrounds) and expect store personnel to supervise your children.
- 6. Have older children take a friend,** if you allow them to go shopping or to public functions without you. It’s more fun and much safer. Older children should check in with you on a regular basis while they are out. Agree on a clear plan for picking them up including: where, what time, and what to do in case of a change in plans.