



Tuscarawas County Sheriff's Office

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Sheriff's Office Offers Online Shopping Tips

With the Holiday Season quickly approaching, the Tuscarawas County Sheriff's Office would like to offer helpful tips to protect citizens from identity theft when doing online shopping.

- Only purchase from merchants you know and trust. If you are unsure, check with the Better Business Bureau or the Federal Trade Commission.
- Do not use links from emails when purchasing. Only go to sites by entering the specific Internet address.
- Check to see if the webpage address begins with "https" before you click "purchase." The "s" stands for secure and indicates that communication with the webpage is encrypted.
- Consider using an online payment system (i.e. PayPal). Check with the Better Business Bureau for a list of authentic providers.
- If you do not use an authentic online payment system, consider using a credit card instead of a debit card. Credit cards are protected by the Fair Credit Billing Act and may reduce your liability if your information is used improperly.
- Use a strong and unique password. Try to avoid using birthdays or names of pets as passwords.
- Set a timeout on your computer and mobile device that requires authentication after a period of inactivity.
- Make sure your home Wi-Fi is secure.
- Do not use public computers or public wireless access for your online shopping.
- Install antivirus and anti-spyware software on your computer and mobile devices.
- Do not respond to pop-ups promising cash, bargains or gift cards in exchange for your response to a survey or other questions.

If you believe you have been a victim of identity theft, please contact our office at 330-339-2000. Have a safe and happy Holiday Season.