

STOLEN PURSE

One of our Community Members had her purse stolen at the local Walmart. It was returned to the Walmart lost and found within 20 minutes. The purse was retrieved thinking everything was still there and it was ok.

EVERYTHING WAS NOT OK! The thieves had taken down all of her information and the spare key to the car. By the time she got home (within hours), her bank account was drained, there were several thousand dollars \$\$\$ in purchases on the credit card, and they came to her house and stole her car later that night.

What to do if your purse or wallet is stolen (even for a short time):

- Immediately call the police
- Call your bank and have a freeze put on the account
- Call your credit card companies
- If you have keys stolen, beware of your car and house security
 - Make arrangements for someone to watch your house and car
- Do not assume everything is OK!
- If you need cash, go to your bank in person.
- Follow-up with your bank the next day

On the plus side:

- The bank covered the loss on the account (not to be counted on)
- The credit card company covered the loss under a fraud clause

When shopping:

- Try to keep your purse in your hand at all times
- If your purse is in your cart, do not be distracted
 - Thieves often work in pairs, one distracts while the other steals
- Elderly people are prime targets for thieves
- Try not to look unaware
 - Always be observing people around you
 - Look at them to let them know you are aware
- If possible, **DO NOT CARRY MULTIPLE CREDIT CARDS**
 - Know what cards you are carrying, so you know who to call