

The Grinch Who Couldn't Steal Christmas

By David Brown, Former Detective of the Ontario Provincial Police

When I was driving at Christmas time or it was getting nearer Christmas time all I could think about was getting home. I couldn't wait until the last drop off or pick up was completed and I could make a "be-line" for home and "GO" like stink to get home. That was all that was on my mind. I watched the weather, I minded my own business, and I did what I had to do and got the hell home.

It's closer to Christmas now than you think and, yes, in less than a month it will be here. Your family your friends, presents and food will be all around. Watch out for the Grinch who wants to steal your Christmas. When I was on the road and in the States I liked picking up a gift for my wife and my grandkids but I did it, a little here and a little there, not all in one spot and I'll tell you why. The Grinch wants to steal your Christmas so watch out. Don't let your guard down for a moment and make sure you get home safe and sound especially this time of year.

If you do some shopping while on the road take some precautions. Do not shop all at once. Stop, spread it out, as not to draw attention to yourself. You want all the deals now that our dollar is doing so well but don't be in a rush to find everything at a truck stop. I am telling you the Grinch wants to steal your Christmas away from you and he will be waiting for his opportunity to strike. Christmas time has more than its fair share of Grinches out there who want to steal from your Christmas and add to their Christmas. Don't let him spoil yours.

My suggestion to you, especially this time of year, is leave your debit card and credit cards at home before taking off on the road. Spread the cash about on your person (more than one place) and take enough cash to do whatever it is you want to do while on the road or simply leave your Christmas shopping until you get back home. Don't be a target if you don't have to be a target.

If you only have cash on you, you can know ahead of time, what and how much is in each pocket and where it is secretly placed and you make yourself more in control. If you carry your purse or wallet, it is an eye catcher to the Grinch out there and it will draw attention to it. If you use credit cards or a debit card, you have no idea who the cashier is or who he or she is associated to. You don't want to be the victim who finds out two days later that the truck stop you were at had a rash of debit pin number thefts and you were one of them. Plus by now you have gone to the closest bank machine and the theft continued into all your savings.

If you don't think this happens to a lot of people give you head a shake because you can become a victim of a crime so fast that you won't even know you have been victimized. So limit the chances of this happening to you.

What does the Grinch look like? How does he act or she? Don't forget the Grinch may be twins? Yes, two or three or even four Grinches working together to make you a victim and stealing your Christmas.

Some tips at Christmas to make the Grinch stay away from stealing your Christmas.

1.) Plan your trips before you take them. Make sure you have enough cash to make the trip safe. Cash only. Leave all your valuables at home including necklaces, jewelry, rings, credit cards,

debit cards and whatever you have taken in the past that is of valuable to you.

2.) Spread you money and your identification in selected pockets, shoes, socks whatever your hiding spot(s) are. Spread whatever you need to get home in more than one place.

3.) Don't wear nice clothes, just the clothes you need to blend into the crowd. You don't want to make yourself a target. Keep your happiness for home.

4.) Mind your own business, don't be jolly and sing Christmas carols while walking to and from rest areas or truck stops. Get-r-Done and get home.

5.) Make your priority getting home number #1 and work towards making that happen.

6.) Watch the weather reports so that if you do get stranded you are in a crowd place and back home before the weather gets too bad. Plan ahead.

7.) Realize it's only a job and you can say "no" if you want to. Dispatchers sometimes think that you can complete a 10 hour run in 4 hours, don't be fooled. Make family and getting home safe and legal and the only priority you have at Christmas.

Please have a save and wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year.