



CRIME PREVENTION HANDOUT

CAR SAFETY TIPS

- When you approach your parked vehicle, visually check the area around the vehicle for any suspicious persons or activity. If you observe anything suspicious walk to where there are other people and call the police.
- Always park in visible, well-lighted areas.
- If you drive a car, attempt to avoid parking next to a larger pickup truck or van. They can be easy to hide behind.
- Have your keys ready when approaching your vehicle to reduce the time needed to enter.
- When operating your vehicle, keep the doors locked and the windows rolled up.
- Any valuables in your car should be placed in the trunk or otherwise kept out of sight.
- When stopped at traffic lights or in traffic, allow space between you and the vehicle in front of you so you can drive away if necessary. If someone approaches your vehicle and attempts to enter, blow your horn to attract attention and drive away.
- Many people consider a cellular telephone to be a good investment in safety.
- Do not pick up hitchhikers!
- Do not open your window if someone approaches your vehicle to ask for directions, the time, etc.
- Keep the door locked.
- Never leave house keys attached to car keys at service stations or parking facilities.
- Do not stop for a stranded motorist. Instead, go to the nearest telephone booth and call the police for assistance.
- If your vehicle becomes disabled and help is not immediately available, raise the hood of the vehicle (if you can safely do so), attach a handkerchief to the door handle, and then stay in the vehicle with the doors locked and the windows up. Activate your hazard or parking lights. If someone stops to assist you, ask him or her through the closed window to call the police.
- Criminals sometimes stage a motor vehicle accident known as a “bump and rob.” The motorist is robbed when they exit their vehicle. If you are involved in a minor accident under suspicious circumstances, stay in your vehicle with the doors locked and the windows up and await the police. If you believe you are in possible danger, write down the license plate of the other vehicle involved in the accident and drive to a safe location to report the accident to the police.
- Never let your gas indicator fall below 1/4 full.
- Carry in your car:
 - A flashlight
 - Fix-a-flat
 - Maps
 - Comfortable warm clothing
 - A portable fire extinguisher
 - First aid kit
 - Empty gas can
 - White cloth to tie to door handle or antenna to signal distress
 - A cellular phone.
- If you are driving somewhere you are not familiar with, plan your route and check a map before you start out.

Reference "The Complete Campus Crime Prevention Manual" by The AEGIS Protection Group.