

Motor Vehicle Safety & Theft

Prevention Tips

Theft Prevention

Vehicles parked along city streets can be targeted for theft. These thefts are referred to as "smash and grabs". Criminals will often target a vehicles that are parked in dark and isolated areas. Valuables left in plain view in the vehicle also may generate motivation for criminals to quickly break a window and grab them.

Therefore, always keep valuables out of plain view when parking your vehicle. Store items under seats or in the trunk. Otherwise, take your valuables with you.

Also, remove all GPS accessories and parts from plain view when parking your vehicle.

Awareness - Be Aware Of Your Surroundings

-Have your keys ready when approaching your vehicle, and do a quick scan of your rear seat before getting in.

-Be alert to any activity near your vehicle.

-Be aware of people who may be following you to your vehicle.

-Recognize that carjacking can occur anytime, anywhere in any neighborhood. Lock your doors when inside.

Alertness - Be Alert To Potential Dangers

-Exercise caution when people approach your vehicle requesting directions, change, or giving out flyers.

-When stopping in traffic, leave enough distance between your vehicle and the one in front of you so you can pull away quickly if needed.

-Be alert when approaching drive-up automated teller machines.

Avoidance - You Will Be Safer If You Avoid Certain

Situations

-Don't get out of your vehicle if you witness suspicious circumstances. Drive away and call the police if necessary.

-Don't drive without locking your doors.

-Avoid using ATM's at night, especially if you see people loitering nearby.

-Never leave the keys in the ignition or the vehicle running for any reason.

-Never leave small children unattended in your vehicle.

- Avoid parking in secluded, poorly lit areas.
- Consider installation of an alarm system. Audible alarms could prevent your vehicle from being broken into or stolen.
- Keep all valuables out of sight when parking your vehicle.
- When having your vehicle serviced, or cleaned, remove your house keys from the key ring.

Actions - Certain Actions Will Help Keep You Safe

- If someone demands your car keys, don't resist. Nothing is more valuable than your life.
- Try to keep a cellular phone accessible when driving.
- Keep a pen and notebook accessible in your vehicle to write down important information about suspicious circumstances.
- In case of a vehicle breakdown, call the police for help and use great caution when approached by unknown individuals. -Place a "CALL POLICE" sign in your back window.

REPORTING SUSPICIOUS VEHICLES

If you see any suspicious vehicles loitering around campus parking lots, please notify DPS immediately at (401) 863-3322 or x3-3322.