

## Rockville City Police Department

### Crime Prevention Tips for Drivers

- Keep at least a half-tank of gas in your automobile at all times.
- In traffic, leave space in front of your car so you can maneuver away if you are threatened.
- If your car breaks down, turn your emergency flashers on, raise the hood and trunk, and sit inside your locked vehicle until help arrives. You may also tie a white flag to your antenna or purchase a "Please Send Help" sign from most retail stores.
- Park in a well-lit area, as close to the door as possible.
- If you are threatened, hold down the horn and drive away.
- If you think you are being followed by another car, drive to a populated area. If the car continues to follow, drive to the nearest place where you can get help.
- If someone follows you into your driveway, stay in your car with the doors locked until you can identify the driver.

#### **Never Leave Children Alone In or Around Vehicles - "Not Even For a Minute"**

Many caring and responsible parents have left their children alone in a car, not realizing the risks involved. Some parents think it is okay to leave a child alone in a car while they run into a store, quickly drop off dry cleaning or while dropping off another child at school. Results of leaving a child alone in or around a vehicle can be deadly.

Did you know?

- The temperature inside a car can reach deadly levels in minutes
- Children can set the vehicle in motion
- Drivers have difficulty seeing small children when backing up
- The child might leave the vehicle to go look for you
- Your child can be abducted

REMEMBER

- A car is not a toy ....
- A car is not a playground ....

AND

- A car is certainly not a babysitter.

Safety Tips:

- Children should never be left alone in a vehicle, not even to run a quick errand.
- Keep vehicles locked at all times; even in the garage or driveway.
- Teach your children to never play in or around a vehicle.
- Consider installing cross-view mirrors and/or a backup detector on your vehicle.
- Keys should never be left within reach of children.
- Always make sure that all passengers have left the car after it is parked.
- If a child is locked inside a car, get them out as quickly as possible. If they are very hot or seem sick, call 911 or your local emergency number immediately.
- When a child is missing, check vehicles and car trunks right away.

Source: [www.kidsncars.org](http://www.kidsncars.org)

## Personal Safety in a Vehicle

- Always wear your seat belt.
- Never drive after drinking any alcoholic beverages.
- Keep valuables out of sight while driving, and put them under the seat or in the trunk when the car is parked.
- If someone is following you, drive to the nearest police or fire station or a well-staffed gas station.
- Never stop for flashing headlights from another vehicle — all emergency vehicles have red or blue lights.
- When stopped at an intersection, leave enough room between vehicles for an escape route.
- Always give yourself enough room between you and the car in front of you, so you can stop if they do.

## Vehicle Theft

Vehicle theft is a big problem. One car is stolen every 19 seconds in the U.S. That's less time than it takes most people to unlock their car, put on their seat belt and start the engine.

What you can do to safeguard your car:

- Before heading to your car have your keys ready in hand to unlock your car quickly.
- When approaching your car, pay attention and be observant. When going to your car always try to walk in pairs if possible. Remember to check the backseat before getting into your car.
- As soon as you get in your car lock the doors. When leaving your car - lock it. When leaving your car in a parking lot always keep it in good running condition.
- Never give out your full set of keys.
- Never get out of your car to help a stranded motorist if you are alone and never pick up a hitchhiker.
- If you think another car is following you, drive to the nearest police or fire station.
- Carry a police banner in your car. If your car breaks down:
  - Open the hood.
  - Display a "call police" banner or attach a white cloth to the antenna or door handle.
  - Wait inside car with doors locked.
  - If someone stops to help stay inside your car and ask them to call the police or tow truck.

## Watch Your Car Program

This is a national vehicle theft program funded by the Department of Justice. It is a voluntary vehicle registration designed to deter auto theft and assist in the apprehension of auto thieves.

Vehicle owners sign an agreement stating their vehicle is not normally used between the hours of 1:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m. If a police officer observes the vehicle being driven anywhere in the United States during these hours, they may stop the vehicle and verify it is being operated by the vehicle owner, or a person designated by the owner.

Once the vehicle is registered with the police department a police officer will then affix "WATCH YOUR CAR" decals in the proper place on the vehicle's windshield and rear window. Information from the registration form will be entered into a centralized database accessible by law enforcement officers on a 24 hour basis.

## What to do if You Are Involved in an Accident

- Your safety is the first and most important thing to look for. Be Safe and Watch for Traffic!!
- Do not stand in the roadway without some type of safety features. This could be road flares, traffic cones or someone wearing a traffic vest to direct traffic around the scene.
- Determine if there are any injuries, if so, *Do Not Move Vehicles or Injured Parties* and immediately notify 911 and be prepared to tell them the following:
  - 1) Exactly where the accident location is.
  - 2) Your name, address and phone number.
  - 3) Nature of injuries.
  - 4) If there are any utilities involved, i.e., power lines, fire hydrants, etc.
- You may provide first aid but unless absolutely needed, do not move them as you may cause greater injury.
- Try to keep all parties calm and in a central location. Same thing applies for witnesses.
- If a witness cannot wait for the police to arrive, you do not have the authority to detain them.
- If possible, have them write down their name, address, home and work numbers. It would also help to ask them to write a brief statement of what they saw.
- Do not get involved in arguing with the involved parties or witnesses about who is at fault or make any inflammatory statements.
- If there are no injuries and the cars are drivable, move them out of the roadway to a safe location such as a parking lot or a side street.

