



VEHICLE SAFETY TIPS

We cannot prepare for the possibility of a crime in the same way as we can rehearse for a play. In a real life situation the only person whose behavior can be controlled is your own. If you can avoid panic, remain clearheaded and well aware of the circumstances, you can significantly reduce the chances of being victimized.

Most individuals have a great opportunity on a day-to-day basis to prevent crimes by reducing the sometimes unintentional opportunities that we offer to criminals. **By *staying alert, aware of your surroundings, trusting your instincts, and by using these tips*** - you can significantly reduce the likelihood of becoming the victim of a crime.

WHEN DRIVING

PLAN alternative routes to your destination. Keep the gas tank filled and the car in good working condition. Keep the doors locked and the windows rolled up.

STRENGTH IN NUMBERS Whenever possible, ride in pairs or groups - Car Pooling is Safe.

LOOK inside your car before entering - an intruder may be crouched on the back seat floor.

PLACE your purse and other valuables under the front seat or better still in the trunk, but **NEVER** in plain view. Never carry more money than absolutely necessary.

REMAIN alert at all times. Take special care when stopped in traffic for anyone approaching your auto. Keep the radio off or at least at a low volume to assist you in remaining alert.

KEEP A REASONABLE DISTANCE from the car in front of you. If you can see the rear tires on the vehicle in front of you, there is sufficient opportunity to move the vehicle right or left in order to escape an emergent situation if the gear shift is left in the *drive* position.

TRY to drive in the left lane, away from the curb - this makes you less of a target. Also avoid asking strangers for directions.

SOUND the horn to attract attention if approached by a suspicious person or if curbed by another auto. Drive away, remove yourself from the area.

ALWAYS try to park in a well-lit and heavily traveled areas as close to your destination as possible. If there are no spaces left in those areas, move your car to a better location when it is safe to do so. **ALWAYS LOCK YOUR CAR!!**

WHEN RETURNING to your auto (or home), have your keys in your hand ready to open the door as you approach your destination. The few minutes you save may keep you from becoming a victim.

IF YOUR CAR BREAKS DOWN, remain inside with the windows up and the doors locked. If a person offers help, ask him to call the Police. **REMAIN IN THE CAR** until the Police arrive.

WHEN APPROACHING your garage, be extra alert for suspicious persons or activity. If there is anything unusual, do not hesitate - **DRIVE AWAY!** Then notify the Police.

CAREFULLY BACK-IN TO your garage, rather than driving straight in. This will give you a better advantage to observe the area for any suspicious activity. The advantage to backing in to your garage, rather than driving straight in to your garage is that you can see whether someone enters in to the garage after you enter. If someone does enter, then pull out and notify the Police. Use a remote panic/vehicle alarm or sound the horn to attract attention if approached by a suspicious person.

A WELL LIGHTED HOUSE is far better protected than a house with no lights on. The more illuminated your house and garage area are, the better the chances of preventing theft, a burglary, personal assault, or another serious crime.

YOUR EXTERIOR LIGHTING should be controlled by a photo-electric eye or a motion detection device so that your garage and outside areas are well-lit when you or anyone else approaches.

TREES AND LARGE BUSHES should never be planted too close to the entrance to your house or garage. They beautify your front yard and parts of the garage, but they offer excellent concealment for a person with criminal intentions while you may be opening any outside door.

WHAT TO DO IF VICTIMIZED

If attacked, do NOT resist! Surrender your property. Women should not wrap a purse around their shoulder or neck. A strong purse strap typically will not yield, therefore you may be injured. Do not gamble with your life. Remain calm, try not to panic or show any signs of anger or confusion. Try to observe the offender for a good description for the Police. If an auto is used, try to get the license number, color, make, and model of the vehicle. *Your goal is to escape with the least harm!*