

CARJACKING

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW



HOTSPOTS:

Anywhere a driver slows down or stops

- Residential driveways
(getting in and out of the vehicle)
- Parking lots and garages
- Gas stations
- ATMs
- Highway entry and exit ramps
- Intersections with stop lights

"Exercise heightened awareness in carjacking "hotspots"

SCENARIOS:

• BUMP & RUN

- o The criminal with at least one passenger, rear-ends or bumps you. Once you get out to assess the damage and exchange information, your vehicle is stolen.

• STRANDED MOTORIST

- o Don't stop for apparently stranded strangers along the road. Note their location and call 911.

• FLASHING LIGHTS

- o Carjackers flash their lights behind you in order to signal a maintenance problem.

"In these situations, you may be tempted to pull over. Stay inside with the windows shut and the doors locked. If you feel a threat, put your flashers on, signal the driver to follow you and drive to the nearest police station."

SAFETY TIPS:

- Be aware of your surroundings.
 - o Make it a habit to start your car and drive away immediately.
 - o Look around for suspicious persons sitting in vehicles or loitering in the area before entering/exiting your vehicle.
- Park in well-lit areas that are visible to the public.
- Keep windows rolled up and doors locked no matter how short your trip or how "safe" the neighborhood.
- Equip your vehicle with an anti-theft and/or tracking device.
- Trust your instincts. If you feel something is wrong, leave the area.
- When stopping in traffic at a stop sign or stop sign, make sure you have room in front of you to maneuver and escape, if necessary.
- Keep your cell phone in your pocket. If your vehicle is stolen, you will be able to call 911.
- Teach your children to enter and exit the vehicle quickly.
- Keep your concealed weapon on your person. Avoid leaving a gun in the car, it could provide a criminal with a weapon.
- **Create a Smart911 profile** and include your vehicle information.

IF YOU ARE THE VICTIM OF A CARJACKING

- If you are confronted by a carjacker give up your car and leave the scene.
- Your vehicle can be replaced. You are irreplaceable.
- Avoid verbal/physical confrontations.
- Make a mental note of the suspect(s)' description and their vehicle's description (if they have one).
- If there is a child in the vehicle, let the carjacker know "my child is in the car."
- Call 911 immediately to report the crime.

CARJACKING IS A CRIME OF OPPORTUNITY. ANYONE CAN BE A VICTIM!

Calumet City Police Department

Emergency 911

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