



# Preventing Auto Theft

Theft is a crime of opportunity. Most often, there are steps you can take to prevent vehicle theft or vehicle prowls. Throughout the year, District Police Authority provides programs that teach you how to better protect yourself and your belongings.

**Vehicles in parking lots always present a target for thieves. Over one million vehicles are stolen in the United States each year.**

## **TO PROTECT YOUR CAR AND HELP PREVENT THEFT, THE WCCCD POLICE AUTHORITY SUGGESTS THAT YOU:**

- Do not leave expensive property such as iPods, laptops, cellular phones, CDs, purses, GPS devices and radar detectors in plain view in your vehicle. Lock them in your trunk or take them into your residence.
- Lock your vehicle and secure the keys.
- Whenever possible, park in well-lit, busy areas.
- Never hide a second set of keys in the vehicle. Extra keys can easily be found if a thief takes time to look.
- On cold mornings, never leave your motor vehicle unattended while running it to warm it up.
- Periodically check your license plates to make sure they haven't been stolen or the renewal tag removed.
- Never leave your keys in your vehicle.
- Be aware of your surroundings.
- Completely close all your windows and lock your doors every time.
- Activate any car alarm system and utilize other anti-theft devices such as the steering club, gearshift locks, and brake pedal locks.
- Consider purchasing LoJack® or other vehicle tracking system.
- Participate in Operation Identification. Mark your valuables and record the serial numbers.
- Report suspicious cars, persons lingering around cars or abandoned cars to the District Police Authority or local police.
- Copy your license plate number and VIN numbers on a card and keep them with your driver's license. If your vehicle is stolen, the police will need this information promptly.



**CALL WCCCD  
POLICE AUTHORITY  
AT 313-496-2800**

