

# Recommendations on Personal Safety

## When You Are In Your Vehicle

Always lock your car and take the keys, even if you will be gone for only a short time. *Plus it is a violation of the law to leave keys in an unattended vehicle.*

Always have your keys ready to unlock the car door, enter without delay and lock the doors immediately.

Keep your car in good running condition with at least a quarter tank of gas.

If it breaks down, raise the hood, use emergency reflectors or flares (if available). *Return and remain in a locked vehicle.* Use a cell phone, do not get out when someone approaches. Only roll the window down slightly to talk with them. Ask them to call the police for you.

Park in a well-lighted area or one that will be well-lighted upon your return to your vehicle when out after dark.

Exercise additional caution when parking in enclosed parking garages. Don't walk into an area if you feel uncomfortable. Leave only the ignition key with parking attendants, take house and other personal keys with you.

Never pick up hitchhikers, male or female. Don't hitch rides yourself.

If you feel you are being followed, drive to the nearest open business for help, or drive to the POLICE/Fire Station. NEVER GO HOME.

Always check the back seat before entering your parked vehicle.

Stay alert to your surroundings. Most carjackers approach on foot. If someone is lurking nearby or walking toward your vehicle, dive away safely but quickly. When stopping in traffic always leave enough room to maneuver around the vehicle in front of you. Drive in the center lane to make it harder for a would-be carjacker to approach your vehicle.

THE "BUMP AND ROB" - If you are bumped in traffic from behind by another vehicle, drive your vehicle to a safe location. DO NOT "JUMP" OUT and run back to the vehicle. One of the occupants of the other vehicle may jump into your vehicle and drive away; with your vehicle, purse, money and home address. Motion for the driver to follow you, call 9-1-1 on your cell phone and park in a safe location. If you get out of your vehicle at the safe location, do not let your guard down, take your purse and keys with you and stay alert.

## Safety Tips for Cellular 9-1-1 Calls

1. Give your NAME and CELLULAR PHONE NUMBER in case the call is disconnected.
2. Describe the nature of the emergency: FIRE, AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT, ROAD HAZARD, SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY, OR OTHER EMERGENCY.
3. Give the location of the emergency: STREET NAME AND NUMBER, CITY, MAJOR CROSS STREETS, FREEWAY/HIGHWAY NAME OR NUMBER, NEAREST FREEWAY RAMP/EXIT, DIRECTION OF TRAFFIC, LANDMARKS.
4. Provide a description of the vehicle or individual: LICENSE NUMBER, MAKE, MODEL, COLOR, OR SPECIAL MARKINGS AND/OR DESCRIPTION OF THE DRIVER/SUSPECT. DO NOT RISK YOUR SAFETY TO OBTAIN THIS INFORMATION. ALWAYS IDENTIFY YOURSELF AS A CELL PHONE USER WHEN CALLING 9-1-1.

## SHOPPING SAFETY TIPS

Even though you are rushed and thinking about a thousand different things, stay **ALERT** to your surroundings and the people around you. People loitering in parking garages, parking lots or outside stores should be avoided, go another way.

Shop before dark when possible. Let someone know when you should be returning. Avoid shopping alone, take a friend. Never park in an unlit lot, no matter how convenient.

Lock your car and close the windows, even if you are only gone a short time. Lock packages in the trunk, or cover them with a dark cloth.

Don't carry excess cash or credit cards. Secure your purse or wallet.

Teach your children to find a store clerk or manager if you become separated while shopping. Don't let children go into the parking lot alone.

# 3 SIMPLE RULES OF SAFETY

1. Stay alert and tuned into your surroundings, wherever you are. Don't be taken by surprise. Be alert, aware and prepared. Stand tall and walk confidently.
2. Don't show fear. Don't look like a victim.
3. Trust your instincts. If you feel uncomfortable in a location or situation, leave immediately and seek help or assistance.