



Crime Prevention Tips from Sheriff Sean Deringer

Lock Your Doors and Secure Your Vehicle

A majority of car break-ins and thefts are from unlocked cars. Even if you are parked in front of your house, in your driveway, or inside your garage--lock your doors! Take the garage door opener push button controllers out of vehicles parked outside as criminals are able to open your garage from inside the vehicle. Criminals like to walk down the street and see if a car is unlocked. If it is, they open the door and take whatever is visible and move on to the next target. However, if the vehicle door is locked, they are more likely to move on.

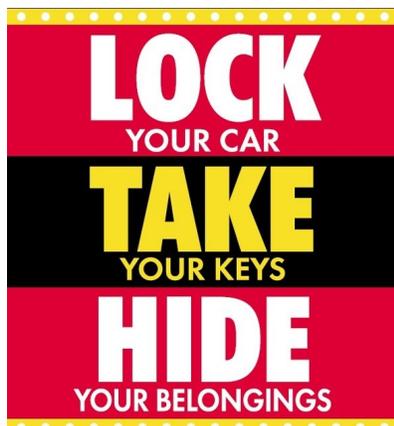
Make sure to roll up the window and lock the doors when exiting your vehicle.

Stash Before You Park

Thieves like to window shop! Avoid leaving anything visible in the vehicle. Almost any item that is visible from outside of the vehicle--even if you think it is worthless--could be seen as something valuable to a thief. Spare change, sunglasses, and even an empty bag could be seen as being worthwhile to a thief. Someone intending on taking items from a vehicle may see an empty bag as having possible items in it.

Stow electronics and accessories well out of sight, or take them with you when leaving the vehicle. Items such as power cords, adapters, and GPS windshield suction-cup mounts may get the attention of watchful thieves. If you remove the suction cup, make sure to wipe off the ring off the windshield--it's a dead giveaway that there is a GPS inside.

Get in the habit of putting items you want hidden in the trunk of your vehicle before you arrive at your destination. Thieves will linger in busy parking lots looking for people stashing their valuable items in the trunk.



Do this...



To prevent this!



Park Smart

Park in a busy, well-lit area and avoid concealment from larger vehicles, fences, or foliage. Avoid parking in isolated and poorly lit areas.

When parking in the garage, it is a good idea to close all the windows, lock the doors and take the keys inside with you. Also make sure the garage doors are locked and overhead doors are closed. An open overhead garage door advertises to thieves what is in your garage.

Report Suspicious Activity

Know the normal activities of people living in your neighborhood, be aware of your surroundings and get to know your neighbors. If you see suspicious activity or suspicious people in your neighborhood, call 911 immediately!

If you see it or hear it, report it!

Calling 911: What to Do

When calling 911, please provide the dispatcher with as much information as possible:

- Location: Provide an address, block number or specific location in a parking lot.
- Description of the suspect: Male or female, age, height, weight, race, hair color and length, color and length of facial hair, colors and style of clothing, and identifying marks such as tattoos and piercings.
- Direction the suspect is heading: What way is the suspect traveling and if in a vehicle, describe the color, make, model and license number. Remember to get this information only if it safe to do so!

Non-Emergency Numbers

**Hennepin County
Sheriff's
Department:
952-258-5321**



**Wright County
Sheriff's
Department:
763-682-1162**

