Preventing Motor Vehicle Thefts

Motor vehicle thefts are often crimes of opportunity. In many cases, thieves take advantage of unsecured doors and windows of vehicles with keys left inside. The public can reduce the opportunity for crime with these prevention tips:



- Be aware of your surroundings when entering and exiting your vehicle.
- Limit your use of devices that may distract you, such as cell phones and headphones.
- Park in well-lit, high traffic areas and activate exterior lights at your home.
- Do not leave your keys, fobs, or valet keys in your vehicle. This includes keys to a secondary vehicle.
- Close and lock all windows and doors when you park. Double click the lock button on the key fob to receive a confirmation beep/chirp or pull on the door handle to verify it's locked.
- Never leave the area while your vehicle is running, even for a short period of time. Doing so is illegal in the Commonwealth of Virginia.
- Ensure that your vehicle is turned OFF when leaving it unattended. Vehicles with keyless ignition systems can be driven for extended periods of time, even if the key fob is not inside of the car. Be sure to read your owner's manual carefully and familiarize yourself with your vehicle's keyless ignition system.

Reporting Information to Police

In the event your vehicle is stolen or you observe suspicious activity, call the Emergency Communications Center at 703-558-2222 or dial 9-1-1 in an emergency. Be prepared with the following vehicle information to provide to dispatch and responding officers:

- Make
- Model
- Model Year
- License Plate Number and State
- Vehicle Identification Number (VIN)
- Color
- Time elapsed
- Direction of travel
- Possible suspect(s) description(s)
- Distinct markings/stickers/damage
- Vehicle tracking devices

POLICE DEPARTMENT
ARLINGTON COUNTY VIRGINIA