



Public Safety Bulletin #1

Parking Lot Security for Work and Home

ARRIVING AT THE PARKING LOT

- **Park in highly visible, well lit areas.** Avoid parking near shrubbery or vans that has the slide open doors. Back in to the space if possible. (Near the elevator, if possible in a parking garage).
- **If you are unfamiliar with the parking lot, check it out first.** Familiarize yourself with parking lot exits. If you don't feel safe, go elsewhere and wait for someone else to arrive.
- **Be aware of your surroundings.** Be cautious of strangers asking questions as you walk to and from your car. Watch for suspicious people or activities.
- **To remember where you parked your car, note landmarks** so you don't spend unnecessary time walking around a parking lot.
- **Conceal all valuable items** such as cell phones, MP3 players, laptops, portable GPS systems, etc. by locking them in the trunk. If practical, these devices should be secured prior to arriving the parking lot.
- **Always lock your doors and roll up your windows,** even if you are just running in to the store for a minute.
- Check to **make sure that you have your keys in your hand** when exiting so the vehicle can be easily locked.

RETURNING TO YOUR VEHICLE

- **Walk confidently,** if you detect a threat return to the building or store. Assertive body language can help prevent an attack.
- **Stay off your cell phone.** Walk with your head up so you can pay attention to the environment. Pay attention to what's going on around you.
- **Carry a portable air horn.** It's far easier to engage than pepper spray and it doesn't need to point anywhere. An air horn cannot be used against you.
- **Have your keys ready** before you get into your vehicle. Searching or fumbling for keys is distracting and makes you vulnerable.
- **When you enter your vehicle** lock the doors immediately, then turn the engine and headlights on. Limit the amount of time you spend idle in the car.
- **If you carry a purse,** don't dangle it by your side so that a thief can run by you and grab it. Carry your purse close to your body, preferably in front.
- **Keep your car in good mechanical condition** to prevent car trouble. Keep the tank filled with sufficient gas.
- **Avoid carrying large sums of money and unnecessary credit cards.** Consider keeping ten or fifteen dollars in your wallet or purse to throw to the ground to initiate an escape. Try not to carry a lot of packages.
- **If you're being followed,** don't go home, go the police or fire station.

*** Always be aware of your surrounding...that's your best defense ***