Motor vehicle theft prevention tips

Any season is motor vehicle theft season. To reduce the likelihood of victimization, read and follow the following theft prevention tips and review this information with your family and friends.

- Never leave your car running and unattended. Motor vehicle thefts amplify during winter months when vehicles are left running.

- Never leave your primary keys or ignition fob in the car or ignition. Never leave a spare or valet key or fob within or near your vehicle. Thieves know where to look for these.

- Always close your windows and lock your car, even in secure residential underground parking garages.

- Park in well-lit areas. Be alert of your surroundings.

- Consider installing a mechanical device that locks to the steering wheel, column or brake pedal to prevent the wheel from being turned more than a few degrees. These devices are commonly called clubs, collars or J-bars. These devices can act as a highly visible physical deterrent if installed correctly. This holds true for motorcycle locking devices.

- Consider an audible auto alarm, anti-theft device, immobilizer or GPS tracking system.

- Never leave valuables out in the open, even if your car is locked. Remove them! Put them in the glove box, center console or trunk out of sight before reaching your destination.

- Carry your driver’s license and insurance card with you. Never leave personal identification documents or credit cards in your vehicle.

Report any and all suspicious activity to 911