



Community Resources Team Crime Prevention Alert

Motor Vehicle Theft and Safety Prevention

The purpose of this alert is to provide some suggestions that can reduce your chance of becoming a victim of this type of crime. There are many ways to keep you and your vehicle safe. These are just a few suggestions:

- Never leave your keys in your vehicle. If a thief steals your vehicle with the keys inside, they may have the keys to your home, as well as another vehicle.
- Never leave valuables or any packages visible in your vehicle.
- Park in busy, well lit areas of the parking lot.
- Copy your license plate and vehicle information (VIN) numbers on a card and keep them with you. If your vehicle is stolen, the police will need this information to take a report.
- If you have a garage, use it. When parked in a garage, lock the garage as well as your vehicle, and take your keys inside.
- Never leave your vehicle running while parked inside of a garage to warm up. This could be dangerous due to the carbon monoxide that builds as the car idles in an enclosed space.
- Never leave your vehicle running unattended. Vehicles are commonly stolen at ATMs, convenience stores, and gas stations etc. **Many vehicles are also stolen on cold mornings when the owner leaves the vehicle running to warm it up.**
- Traffic Article 21-1101(A) states that it is unlawful to leave an unattended vehicle w/o stopping the engine, locking the ignition, removing the key and setting the brake. Fine is \$70 and a 1 point violation.

As always, call 9-1-1 if you see anyone attempting to break into a vehicle. **Do not intervene**, contact 9-1-1 immediately. Provide as much information about the suspect as possible to help the police. Any questions or concerns should be directed to the Baltimore County Police Department Community Resources Team @ 410-887-5901.