

CRIME PREVENTION TIPS



AUTO THEFT

The temptation to start warming up a vehicle while you stay inside, or leaving it running while doing a short errand, could be a costly mistake! Even if you lock the vehicle, it only takes seconds to break a window or jimmy a door lock.

Did you know ...

It is against City ordinance to leave your key in the ignition while you are not in your car ([Minneapolis City Ordinance 478.160](#), *open ignition* - a petty misdemeanor)?

There is also an *anti-idling vehicle ordinance* ([Minneapolis City Ordinance, Chapter 58 Idling](#)), generally - it restricts idling of vehicles to no more than:

- 3-minutes in a 1-hour period.

Another portion of the ordinance limits idling of buses, trucks and other diesel engine-powered vehicles to generally no more than:

- 5-minutes in a 1-hour period.

Exemptions and load/unload requirements are outlined in the ordinance, as well.

Officers may issue citations to vehicles that are running with no driver present. In fact, if your vehicle is reported stolen and your keys are in it, you may also be issued a citation.

\$\$ The Cost of Auto Theft \$\$

Even if you aren't cited for open ignition, if your vehicle is stolen and later recovered, it will likely be towed to the [City of Minneapolis Impound Lot](#). [You will have to pay to retrieve your vehicle. Fees accrue by the day.](#) If you don't retrieve your vehicle in 15 days, it could be sold at [Police Auction](#).

Please be aware, if your vehicle is towed, currently (2020) the standard tow fees begin over \$138, not including daily storage (\$18/day) and other possibly applicable fees at the Impound Lot. There are also special rules on to whom and how your vehicle can be released.

! What to do if your vehicle is stolen !

- If your vehicle is stolen, call 9-1-1.
- If you see your vehicle being driven by someone else, call 9-1-1.
- **If you find your vehicle parked somewhere, it's very important you call 9-1-1 to report the vehicle is recovered.**
 - *If you recover your vehicle and don't call 9-1-1, you could be mistaken as the thief if officers see you driving it around!*

What about remote starters?

Remote starters are legal to use and do not violate the open ignition ordinance. However, remote starters, with a vehicle left unattended, still provides temptation to a thief.

Running your car to keep it warm may leave you in the cold! Please help us reduce this winter crime.



THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE



- Remove (hidden) keys, *key fobs*, garage door openers, and valuables from vehicles, or at least out-of-sight. – If you can see your valuables, so can a thief!
- Secure your vehicle even when parked in your own garage (lock doors, close windows when unattended, do not leave spare keys attached to the outside of your vehicle).
- Park in a closed secure garage or well-lit, high-visibility areas ideally close to surveillance cameras
- Keep record of valuables’ serial numbers

PACKAGE THEFT



- Thieves may follow a delivery truck or watch your package delivered.
- **Before you ship, consider your shipping selection options.**
- Ship the package to a location where someone you authorize will receive it. Consider the “signature required” option.
- FedEx packages > Use www.fedex.com (or call 1-800-GO-FEDEX) to send your delivery directly to a FedEx location you choose, or have it held for pickup at one of the stations. FedEx has many stations at retail stores for package pickup with ID and signature required.
- UPS has stores that a package can be routed to and several delivery options. Find information via www.ups.com or 1-800-PICK-UPS.
- The United States Postal Service provides options to track and secure safe delivery for your packages through delivery options, tracking, and insuring your package. More info: <http://www.usps.com>
- Amazon also has lock boxes at various locations. Select the appropriate shipping option, *before* you click "buy".

If you actively see something suspicious such as a person picking up a package off your neighbor’s front step or a car following a delivery van, contact 9-1-1 immediately!

If you are a victim of this crime and do not have suspect information, contact 3-1-1. If you have suspect information, contact 9-1-1.

File a mail theft or lost package claim with your shipper:

- United States Postal Inspection Service > <http://go.usa.gov/x8WjE> or call 1-800-ASK-USPS (1-800-275-8777).
- UPS > <https://www.ups.com/us/en/help-center/claims-support.page>
- FedEx > <https://www.fedex.com/en-us/customer-support/claims.html>
- If you used another carrier, check with them.

IDENTITY THEFT



- Consider using a Post Office box or locked mailbox.
- Shred:
 - documents with sensitive information.
 - unsolicited credit card, loan offers.
 - expired credit, debit and identification cards.
 - credit card and ATM receipts.
- Never give your PIN # or account information over the phone even if they say they work for that institution.
- Go to your financial institution in-person to conduct large transactions or transactions not typical for your daily financial life.
- Do not use personally identifiable information for PIN #, passwords, security questions.
- Never give personal information over the phone.

INTERNET & ONLINE SAFETY



- **Public WiFi hotspot guest networks leave your internet traffic activity exposed and vulnerable. Only conduct personal/private transactions and activity (such as: banking, emails, any purchases, accessing health information/records) on a private secured password protected network.**
- Secured sites have addresses that start with “https”.
- Use encryption software when transferring personal information over the internet.
- Consider options like anti-malware and a VPN (virtual private network) as well.
- Use a strong mixed-case passphrase with numbers & symbols. Keep it in a secure location (not taped to a computer). Example: P@ssphr@se2D@y!
- Do NOT open email from unrecognized senders or attachments you were not expecting or seem suspicious. Opening either may expose your device and/or network to malicious and/or criminal activity.
- Avoid giving your full name, address, phone number, etc. unless it is a secure site.
- For forum/discussion sites that require a name to register, use a nickname or alias.