

# Wintertime Auto Theft

## Important Crime Prevention Tip from Minneapolis Police Departments 5<sup>th</sup> Precinct.

During the colder months, car thieves take advantage of individuals who leave their vehicles running unattended. The temptation to start the car and let it warm up while you stay warm inside or leaving it running while doing a short errand could be a very costly mistake!

Even if you lock the doors, it only takes seconds to break a window or manipulate a lock. No circumstance or amount of time is appropriate to leave your vehicle running unattended. Every year, thieves take vehicles with children, pets, and valuables in them when the driver momentarily steps away from their running vehicle. Do not leave your key FOB in the vehicle.

It is against City ordinance to leave your key in the ignition while you are not in your vehicle.  
**(Minneapolis City Ordinance 478.160, Open ignition—a petty misdemeanor)**

Officers can issue tickets where vehicles are running with no driver present. In fact, if your car is reported stolen and your keys were in it, it may also invalidate your insurance coverage. It is legal to use a remote start because your key is not in the ignition and the vehicle cannot be moved. ALSO, to avoid a tow, please be mindful of Snow Emergency Notifications **612-348-SNOW.**

**Running Your Car To Warm It Up Could Leave You Out In The Cold!**  
**DO NOT leave your vehicle unattended**

Call 612-673-3000 or 311 for the contact information for your neighborhood Crime Prevention Specialist.

If you need immediate Police, Fire, or Emergency Medical dispatched to your location, call 911.

