

## Help Prevent Theft from Auto

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### Thieves Need Less Than 20 Seconds to Steal

- Laptops, I-Pad, I-Phones, I-Pods, other electronics
- Back packs or gym bags
- Purse, wallet, checkbooks
- GPS
- Camera gear or jewelry
- Tool boxes and power tools
- Cash / spare change

### Tips for Preventing Theft

Thefts from auto can happen in parks, public parking areas, on street parking, and in garages! Over \$1 million dollars in property is stolen each year from autos in Saint Paul. Working together - the community and the police - we can help prevent this.

Here are some tips:

- Lock your doors and roll the windows up tight.
- Valuables in the trunk are at risk. If you must put valuables in the trunk, place them there before arriving at your parking destination.
- Watch for suspicious acting people loitering or lurking in the area of parked vehicles. Call 911 and describe the person's:
  - ⇒ Gender, race, height, weight, clothing and age
  - ⇒ License number (if available) or mode of transportation
  - ⇒ Exact location
- Park in a well lit area if you expect to return to your car after dark.
- Keep a record of all your credit card numbers. Write down the serial numbers, makes and models of your personal property.
- Invest in wheel locking lug nuts. Keep the lug nut "key" in a safe place where would be thieves will not have access to it – consider your trunk or safe spot in the trunk vs. console or glove box.
- Do not leave sensitive ID information in your vehicle where someone could use it to steal your ID.

### What to Do If It Happens to You

Call 911 immediately if property is stolen from your auto. If possible, stay where your auto was parked. Prepare a list of what was taken. The police will further advise you.

Immediately cancel all credit card and bank accounts if a credit card or checks are stolen. Do not just place stop payment orders on checks that were stolen.

Please share the above tips with family, friends, coworkers and neighbors. For more information, call the Saint Paul Police Department Crime Prevention Unit at (651) 266-5625.