

La Grange Police Crime Prevention Tips

MOTOR VEHICLE LARCENIES ARE PREVENTABLE



Most thefts from motor vehicles are preventable. There are just a few things you need to do to prevent them. Once you realize the steps you need to take, we are counting on you to do them on a daily basis!

PRACTICE TLC!

Take Out Valuables - If you can leave your valuables at home, do so. Otherwise, upon reaching your destination, take your valuables with you. If you must leave them in your vehicle, place them in the trunk before you get to your destination.

Lock Your Vehicle

Close Doors & Windows - An open door or window or window allows a thief a quick and quiet way to enter your vehicle. Take the time to ensure you closed everything.

COMMON ITEMS STOLEN FROM VEHICLES

You might be surprised by what victims make available to thieves:

- Cameras, Laptops, Cell Phones
- Car Stereos, CD's
- Vehicle Registrations
- Gym Bags, Luggage, Briefcases
- Garage Door Open
- Mail, Money, Purses, Jackets

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION!

You can often choose where you park your vehicle. It is important to be aware of where you park. Thieves are looking for vehicles they can enter with the least possibility of someone watching and alerting the police. Ideally, the best place to park is in your locked garage. Otherwise please consider these important factors:

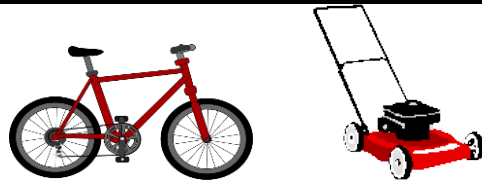
- ⇒ **Don't** park where others cannot see your vehicle
- ⇒ **Don't** park in all-day unattended parking areas
 - ⇒ **Do** park in well-lit areas
 - ⇒ **Do** park in clearly visible area
 - ⇒ **Do** join a Neighborhood Watch

TIPS FOR DRIVERS



- Be alert for children playing in neighborhoods and residential areas. Young children may be more concerned about catching a ball that rolls into the street than watching for vehicles coming toward them.
- Drive safely and slowly around parks and playgrounds. More children are out playing during the summer.

TIPS TO PREVENT BICYCLE AND LAWNMOWER THEFT



- Be sure to lock your bicycle to a stationary object. The best locking device is a hardened steel u-shaped lock. (*Avoid locks, chains or cables that can easily be cut or broken.*)
- Keep mower in a locked garage
- Make sure both wheels are locked and remove any accessories that can easily be taken
- Record the makes, models, serial numbers and descriptions of your bicycles and lawnmowers. Store this information in a safe place.

TIPS FOR PARENTS



- Provide a list of phone numbers of neighbors, family, and friends that your child can call in an emergency. Make sure your child knows how to dial 9-1-1 and when it is appropriate to do so.
- Know the route your child will take to and from a given location. Remind your child never to take a shortcut or deviate from the agreed-upon route.
- Establish rules for using the Internet. Children should have adult supervision when online. Make sure your child knows to never give out personal information on the Internet.
- Require your child to check in with a parent before leaving the house and when returning home. Teach your child that there is safety in numbers and that it is best to be with a group of friends when going places without an adult.
- Provide a bike helmet and require your child to wear it, as well as brightly colored or reflective clothing.

TIPS FOR HOMEOWNERS



- Keep doors in your home closed and locked including your garage doors. An open door is an invitation.
- Be a good neighbor and alert police to any unusual activity in your neighborhood.
- Avoid home improvement scams and deception burglaries by taking a proactive approach. Be particularly alert to anyone in your neighborhood looking to perform home repair and asking to gain entry into your home. Ask to see identification and let them know you are going to call and get verification from their company before allowing them inside. If they are legitimate, they won't mind the wait.
- Complete Vacation Checklist:
 - Call Dispatch (222-0111) to have your home put on the House Watch List.
 - Have your mail and newspapers stopped or have a neighbor pick them up.
 - Leave inside lights on timers to make it look as if someone is home.
 - Set your alarm system.
 - Have a lawn service or neighbor mow your lawn.