



24th District Community Policing Office

Safety Recommendations

The 24th District is sending out these Safety Recommendations due to the incidents of Aggravated Vehicular Hijackings and Motor Vehicle Thefts that have recently taken place in Districts 24, 20, 19, 17, 18, 1 and 16. Since Wednesday, January 6, 2021 there have been over a dozen incidents reported and the Detective Division has issued Community Alerts in Area 3 and Area 5.

The act of stealing a vehicle takes only seconds. The victims are often Food Delivery Drivers who return from their delivery to find that the vehicle has been stolen.

Police have received reports of multiple suspects exiting a vehicle and trying the handles of parked vehicles. The suspects enter vehicles that are found to be unlocked with the goal of stealing those with keys left inside. These incidents typically occur during early morning and overnight hours and the suspect vehicle is often driven slowly near the suspects to allow an easy getaway.

Motor vehicle thefts are often Crimes of Opportunity with thieves taking advantage of perceived easy targets.

The Chicago Police Department recommends following the below safety tips to keep your vehicles and property safe:

- Be aware of your surroundings, especially in garages, parking lots, and gas stations.**
- Close and lock all windows and doors when you park. Double click the lock button on the key fob to receive a confirmation beep/chirp or pull on the door handle to verify it's locked.**
- Park in well-lit areas and activate exterior lights at your home.**
- Never leave the area while your vehicle is running – even for a short duration of time.**
- Do not leave your keys, key fobs, or valet keys in your vehicle. This includes keys to a secondary vehicle.**
- Ensure that your vehicle is turned OFF when leaving it unattended. Vehicles with keyless ignition systems can be driven for extended periods of time even if the key fob is not inside the car. Be sure to read your owner's manual carefully and familiarize yourself with how to operate your vehicle's keyless ignition system properly.**
- Keep information, such as the make, model, model year, license plate and VIN (Vehicle Identification Number) easily accessible in the event your vehicle is stolen.**

If you have any questions or concerns please contact the 24th District at (312) 744-6321, email:caps.024disrict@chicagopolice.org, or Twitter at @ChicagoCAPS24.

Joseph E. Brennan

Commander 24th District