BEWARE OF THE “BUMP-AND-ROB”
It works like this. A car, usually with a driver and at least one passenger, rear-ends or “bumps” you in traffic. You get out to check the damage. The driver or one of the passengers jumps in your car and drives off.

If you’re bumped by another car, look around before you get out. Make sure there are other cars around, then check out the car that’s rear-ended you and who’s in it. If the situation makes you uneasy, stay in the car and insist on moving to a police station or busy, well-lighted area to exchange information.

BE ON THE LOOKOUT
- If your car’s stolen, report it to the police immediately. Also, report abandoned cars to the local agency that handles removal.
- When buying a used car from an individual or a dealer, make sure you have the proper titles, that the VIN number is intact, and the “federal sticker” is on the inside of the driver’s door. That sticker should match the VIN.
- Suggest that any dealer, rental car agency, or auto repair shop you use offer auto theft prevention information in the waiting rooms.
- If joyriding is a problem in your community, work to improve recreational programs and job opportunities for young people.
THE BASIC PREVENTION POLICY

I Never leave your car running or the keys in the ignition when you’re away from it, even for “just a minute.”

I Always roll up the windows and lock the car, even if it’s in front of your home.

I Never leave valuables in plain view, even if your car is locked. Put them in the trunk or at least out of sight.

I Buy radios and tape and CD players that can be removed and locked in the trunk.

I Park in well-lighted areas with good visibility.

ADD EXTRA PROTECTION

I Install a mechanical locking device—commonly called clubs, collars, or j-bars—that locks to the steering wheel, column, or brake to prevent the wheel from being turned more than a few degrees. Use it!

I Investigate security systems if you live in a high-theft area or drive an automobile that’s an attractive target for thieves. You may get a discount on your auto insurance.

I Look into CAT (Combat Auto Theft) and HEAT (Help Eliminate Auto Theft) partnership programs where individuals voluntarily register their vehicles with the police, and allow the police to stop the car during certain hours when they are suspect. All participants display decals in a designated area on their vehicles.

WHAT ABOUT CARJACKING?

Carjacking—stealing a car by force—has captured headlines in the last few years. Statistically, your chances of being a carjacking victim are very slim, and preventive actions can reduce the risk even more.

I Etch the vehicle identification number (VIN) and your license plate number on a card and keep it in a safe place. If your vehicle is stolen, the police need this information.

I Approach your car with the key in hand. Look around and inside before getting in.

I When driving, keep your car door locked and Windows rolled up at all times.

I Never leave your keys in the car, even when you are nearby.

I When you pay to park in a lot or garage, leave just the ignition key with the attendant. Make sure no personal information is attached. Do the same when you take your car for repairs.

I Always keep your car doors locked and windows rolled up at all times.

In the United States, a vehicle is stolen every 21 seconds.

Stolen cars, vans, trucks, and motorcycles cost victims time and money—and increase everyone’s insurance premiums. They’re also often used to commit other crimes.

Don’t become a victim of this serious crime.