



AVOID BECOMING A CARJACK VICTIM

UNIVERSITY PARK POLICE DEPARTMENT CRIME PREVENTION

With the recent Dallas carjacking offense that occurred near our City, many of our residents have asked for crime prevention information related to this dangerous type of crime.

Carjacking is often thought of as the violent form of motor vehicle theft. Because it involves the use of force or the threat of force and bodily harm to the victim, it is actually classified as a robbery for crime reporting purposes in the State of Texas. Since it does not have a classification of its own, it is difficult to know how many carjackings occurred during any specific period or place. Regardless of what it is called, the victim of a carjacking is often very deeply affected by the crime event from an emotional standpoint.

Here are some suggestions to help you avoid becoming a carjack victim:

- Be attentive to your surroundings
- Drive with your windows up and your doors locked
- Park your vehicle in busy, well-lighted areas
- When getting in your parked car – don't dawdle, get in and get going
- Watch for suspicious persons loitering in the parking lot or sitting in parked vehicles
- When parking in your garage or driveway – check your surroundings, watch for someone approaching you from around the corner or behind your vehicle
- When stopped in traffic or at an intersection, leave enough room between your car and those around you that you could escape if necessary.
- Give up your keys or belongings if you are confronted – don't take the risk of being hurt
- Get away from the vehicle – drop your keys and run
- If you are forced to drive the vehicle, consider crashing your car if it will attract the attention of someone who could assist you or who would call police.
- DON'T leave your kids in a parked car that is left running. Take your kids and your keys with you.