

SAFETY TIP OF THE WEEK

ZERO HARM

Vehicle Parking Lot Safety

As day light hours shorten parking lots are targeted locations for the theft of valuables from a vehicle, as well as theft of the vehicle itself. A little planning may prevent such events from occurring.

- Park near other vehicles or in high pedestrian and vehicle traffic areas. Parking in an isolated area is a welcome mat for criminals.
- Park in a well-lit area.
- Keep packages and valuables out of sight in your vehicle—either under a seat, in a glove box, or in the trunk.
- When leaving your vehicle, be certain your windows are rolled completely up and your doors are locked.
- Criminals walk through parking lots looking for easy opportunities, such as vehicles with unlocked doors or packages and valuables in plain sight. Before leaving your vehicle, take a second to double-check that your car is not an easy target.
- Remember, “without opportunity, there is no crime!”

Pedestrians can also risk making themselves easy targets in parking lots. Usually, they don’t even realize it. The following tips will help make your visit a safe experience:

- Stay alert and walk briskly, with your head up and your shoulders back. Criminals look for easy marks such as people who are slouched over, preoccupied, or fumbling with packages.
- Look around the parking lot and your vehicle for suspicious people. If you notice suspicious behavior, inform security or the police immediately.
- Walk with others when possible.
- Walk in a well-lit area.
- Be aware of noises and movements.
- Avoid wearing visibly expensive jewelry.
- Have your keys in your hands and ready to open your vehicle.
- Look into your vehicle’s front and rear seats before entering it.
- Lock your vehicle as soon as you get in.
- If someone approaches your vehicle inquiring about directions, do not open your door or roll your window down.
- If you are alone at night, ask security to escort you to your vehicle.