



WESTERVILLE DIVISION OF POLICE

Press Release

"Being There When Needed"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Subject: Vehicle Theft
Releasing Officer: Lt. Tracey Myers
Date: January 20, 2011
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WESTERVILLE POLICE ISSUE VEHICLE THEFT REMINDER

The Westerville Division of Police continues to respond to reports of thefts from vehicles in neighborhoods and business districts throughout the community. Although a common crime in the city, most thefts can be prevented by taking a few precautions.

Thefts from vehicles primarily happen to unlocked vehicles. **Locking your vehicle greatly reduces your chance of becoming a victim of theft.**

- Remove all valuable materials from the vehicle, or secure it in the trunk. Never leave property visible in the vehicle. Purses, laptop computers and electronic equipment are popular items for thieves. Even if there are no valuables in a gym-bag or briefcase, a criminal does not know that and may break out a window to take it regardless.
- Always keep the windows up and doors locked when parked.
- Always park in well-lit areas.
- Park your vehicle off the street and in your driveway whenever possible. If you have a garage, it is the best place for your vehicle to be parked. This one act can reduce your risk dramatically.
- Report any suspicious activity to the police. It is very important to call immediately.

When reporting suspicious activity to the Westerville Division of Police:

- Call the non-emergency phone line at **(614) 882-7444**
- Identify yourself by name, address and phone number
- Report the type of crime (burglary, assault, suspicious person, or vehicle, etc.)
- State the location. Be specific as possible.
- Provide description of the suspect, whether armed, and how many suspects
- Provide description of the vehicle, including license plate number
- Provide the direction of travel of the suspect, if applicable.
- Stay on the phone with the dispatcher until they tell you that you may hang up. (Unless you are in fear for your safety)

For more information or to schedule an interview, please contact Lt. Tracey Myers at (614) 901-6493, tracey.myers@westerville.org or Sgt. Charles Chandler at (614) 901-6878, charles.chandler@westerville.org.