



Peninsula Detachment Crime Alert

12/4/06 – Safeguard Your Vehicle from Prowlers

Vehicle prowls - when a criminal enters a vehicle and steals items - are a year-round problem for police. It only takes a few moments for a thief to walk through the aisle of a parking lot or into a driveway, break a window and grab a purse or a shopping bag. The opportunities to commit this type of crime multiply as the holidays approach. This is due to folks stretching their schedules and minds to accommodate more activities and the criminals waiting to exploit the inattentiveness.

At this time, the Peninsula Detachment would like to remind you to take precautions when it comes to your vehicle's security - not only when in town, but while at home.

BE VIGILANT ABOUT WHERE YOU LEAVE YOUR VEHICLE

Is your vehicle visible to people passing through the area? Is the parking place well lit? Is there a motion-sensor light in your driveway? Is there anyone nearby seeming to be without a purpose or not belonging in the area?

If the parking space appears to be unsafe, move along to a safer area.

SECURE YOUR VEHICLE

Take the time to close all the windows and secure all entry points, including canopies. Also secure any bed-mounted tool boxes.

Criminals look for easy targets. If a criminal can not get in and out of your vehicle quickly, the criminal will move on to the next target.

REMOVE UNNECESSARY ITEMS FROM YOUR VEHICLE

A thief will take anything from documents to designer sunglasses. Can you peek into your vehicle and see ATM receipts? CDs? Your child's schoolbag?

The fewer items you have in your vehicle, the less interesting it is to a criminal.

KEEP OTHER ITEMS OUT OF VIEW

Do you store your purse under your seat when you run in for coffee? Is your wallet tucked in the visor? Is your cell phone in the door cubby?

These are the most common hiding places a criminal scouts for things to steal. Hide things before you arrive at your next destination and take your personal items with you when you leave the vehicle.

THIS APPLYS TO VEHICLES AT HOME AND AWAY

No place is safe from a thief wanting to commit a crime.

Please be vigilant at home as well as away from home.

Should you become a victim to a vehicle prowler, report the crime as soon as possible. Call 9-1-1 or the non-emergency number, 253-798-4721, option 1.