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. 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 you feel uneasy, stay in the car and insist on moving to a police station or busy, well-lighted area.

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.

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

III. Never leave valuables in plain view, even if your car is locked. Put them in the trunk or at least out of sight. Buy radios and tape and CD players that can be removed and locked in the trunk.

IV. Park in well-lighted areas with good visibility, away from walkways, stores, and people.

V. Be especially alert at intersections, gas stations, malls, convenience stores, and grocery stores—areas where a carjacker is likely to find a car that will be easy to steal.

VI. Windows rolled up at all times.

When driving, keep your car door locked and find a safe place if your vehicle is stolen. The police need this information.

Keep a copy of the vehicle identification number (VIN) and your license number in a safe place.

VII. When you pay to park in a lot or garage, leave your keys in your vehicle.

VIII. Approaching your car with the key in hand, look around and inside before getting in.

IX. When driving, keep your car doors locked and windows rolled up at all times.

X. When parking, look around and inside before getting in.

XI. Lock the steering wheel, column, or brake to prevent the wheel from being turned more than a few degrees. Use these locking devices to prevent the wheel from being turned.

XII. Look into CAT (Combat Auto Theft) and HEAT (Help Eliminate Auto Theft) partnership programs where individuals voluntarily register their vehicles with authorities to help prevent theft.

XIII. Look into club options for your vehicles. They're also called steering wheel locks, wheel clamp, or brake locks.

XIV. Install a mechanical locking device—be especially alert at intersections, gas stations, malls, convenience stores, and grocery stores.

Add Extra Protection

The same when you take your car for repairs.

I. Don't leave personal identification documents, such as driver's license, birth certificate, or social security card in your vehicle.

II. Never leave valuables in plain view, such as money, money, and increase earnings of money.

III. Do not drive a carjacking vehicle.

IV. Park in well-lighted areas with good visibility, away from walkways, stores, and people.

V. Always roll up the windows and lock the car.

VI. If the carjacker has a weapon, give up the car without question. Your life is worth more than a car.

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

VIII. Approach your car with the key in hand, look around and inside before getting in.

IX. When driving, keep your car doors locked and windows rolled up at all times.

X. Be especially alert at intersections, gas stations, malls, convenience stores, and grocery stores—areas where a carjacker is likely to find a car that will be easy to steal.

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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.