



HALL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

CRIME PREVENTION UNIT



CRIME PREVENTION TIP

DATE: 5-19-09 December 7, 2009
TO: Crime Prevention Program Participants
FROM: Deputy Stephen Wilbanks
SUBJECT: THEFTS FROM AUTOMOBILES
DISTRIBUTION: All members

Thefts from automobiles (referred to as "Entering Auto" in legal language) is a felony crime that typically comes and goes in cycles, and in reviewing our daily crime reports, right now seems to be one of those times when it is a little more prevalent than others. With summer coming up, and with it the corresponding increase in nighttime activity, this is a good opportunity to remind everyone of just a few basic things to do that will hopefully prevent you from becoming the next victim.

- 1) **DON'T STORE VALUABLES IN PLAIN SIGHT WITHIN YOUR VEHICLE.** Many thieves are of the opportunistic variety. Laptops, GPS units, IPODs, cell phones, and tools get a lot of attention. If the criminal doesn't see anything worth the effort, he or she may simply move on to a better looking opportunity.
- 2) **ROLL UP YOUR WINDOWS & LOCK YOUR DOORS ANYTIME YOUR CAR IS UNATTENDED.** Make this a second-nature habit, even in your own driveway. A great number of entering autos take place in the victim's driveway at night, and many times the vehicles are simply unlocked. Some thieves (but not all) will stop short of smashing a window to gain entry.
- 3) **THINK ABOUT WHERE YOU PARK.** The most convenient parking place may not be the most secure. Take into consideration what type of visibility people will have on your vehicle. The more eyes that are on it, the less it looks like a target for a criminal.

Nothing earth shattering here, but if we all practice these tips with regularity, fewer of us will be victimized. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact:

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