



HALL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

CRIME PREVENTION UNIT



CRIME PREVENTION TIP

DATE: June 17, 2010
TO: Crime Prevention Program Participants
FROM: Deputy Stephen Wilbanks
SUBJECT: Vacation crime prevention
DISTRIBUTION: All members

Following up on our last vacation crime prevention tips, here are a few safety precautions to take while traveling the roadways:

- 1) Make sure you have a cell phone and a car charger for it.
- 2) Never pick up a hitchhiker (yes, we still have to say that... seriously.)
- 3) Always have a plan and the necessary items to deal with vehicle breakdowns. Don't wait until you're on the side of a lonely highway late at night to discover that you 1) don't have a flashlight; 2) you don't have a lug wrench or a jack; or 3) that your spare tire is flat. Practice changing a tire in your driveway so you can do it at roadside.
- 4) If you do experience mechanical trouble, pull off the roadway as far as you safely can and turn on your 4-way flashers. If you can't make it safely off the roadway, get out of your car and stand away from it while calling 9-1-1 for assistance.
- 5) Be cautious of anyone who stops to offer assistance. They may be a genuine Good Samaritan, but let your guard down with no one. If you don't feel good about them, stay in your locked vehicle, lower the window just enough to speak to them, and tell them you have contacted the police and help is on the way.
- 6) If you must leave your vehicle, leave a note on the dashboard giving the circumstances, your name, phone #, time that you left, and where you are going.
- 7) If you have a flat and there is simply no other option for you, it's better to drive very, very slowly along the shoulder of the road while utilizing your 4-way flashers until you reach a safe place to pull over. A damaged wheel is replaceable, lives are not.
- 8) Choose only well-lit, occupied locations for food and fuel stops. Be aware of suspicious people at these locations. Put valuables out of sight and lock the vehicle when you go inside. When you return to your car, be aware of your surroundings; be prepared to enter and lock your car quickly or go back inside for assistance.
- 9) If you think you are being followed, call 9-1-1 while driving to the nearest well-lit, highly populated location. Don't stop or get out until you have a law enforcement vehicle in sight.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact:

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