

## **JULY 2020 CCDC SAFETY MESSAGE**

### **JULY IS NATIONAL VEHICLE THEFT PREVENTION MONTH**

July is national vehicle theft prevention month. In talking to volunteers about deployments, the question arises about parking. Our vehicles are important to us as a valuable and costly asset.

According to the NHSTA, in 2018 alone, nearly three quarters of a million motor vehicles were stolen in the United States, costing vehicle owners more than \$6 billion.

- Passenger cars made up more than 50% of all stolen motor vehicles.
- Only 59.3% of all stolen motor vehicles were recovered.
- Of all motor vehicles stolen, 74.8% were passenger vehicles.
- A motor vehicle was stolen every 42.2 seconds.

Auto thefts are decreasing each year with new technology to help prevent thefts. However, as vehicle owners we need to be responsible. Here are ways you can help prevent motor vehicle theft.

- Close and lock all windows, doors and sunroofs when you park.
- Park in well-lit areas.
- Always stow away your valuables.
- Do not leave the area while your vehicle is running. It is tempting in the winter and summer to warm or cool the interior.
- Do not leave your keys in your vehicle.
- At a store do not unlock your car, load your shopping bags and walk away to return the cart with the car unlocked. Lock the car, take the keys and return the cart.
- Many thefts occur at your home where it is easy to forget to lock your car and leave items in the car.
- Set your car security system, if possible. to beep or flash the headlights at you when the car locks so you have a clear signal.
- Ensure your auto unlock only unlocks the driver's door with a single click. Do not unlock more doors than passengers.
- Always drive with your doors locked to prevent possible carjacking.

Fortunately for us, Pennsylvania is not in the top 10 states with most vehicles stolen.

For more information on motor vehicle theft prevention, visit [NHTSA.gov/theft](https://www.nhtsa.gov/theft). For additional resources, visit the FBI's [Motor Vehicle Theft Page](#).

These materials are for use every day of the year. Use these safety tools to educate your community on the dangers of vehicle theft and how to keep themselves safe.

Don't let your vehicle leave you parked!

**THINK SMART, BE AWARE, BE FLEXIBLE, BE EDUATED**