

## PERSONAL SAFETY TIPS

You can greatly reduce your chance of becoming a victim by following these safety tips:

- Be alert to your surroundings; even when you feel rushed.
- Avoid parking near anything that limits your visibility and use extreme caution when utilizing ATM machines.
- When approaching your car, have your keys in your hand, and check the back seat before you get in. Always lock your doors as soon as you enter your car.
- Keep your purse and other valuables out of view while driving.
- Avoid driving alone. Have someone with you especially at night.
- Be wary of people asking for directions or handing out flyers.
- When driving and coming to a stop, leave enough space to maneuver around other cars.
- Don't stop to assist a stranger whose car has broken down. Instead, drive to the nearest phone or use your cell phone to call the police for help.
- If you can't drive away from a threatening situation, draw attention to yourself-- honk your horn or yell. Remain in your locked car if possible.

Accidents are often used as a way of committing a crime. Some of the most common examples are:

- **The Bump** - The attacker(s) bumps the victim's car from behind. The victim gets out of their car to assess the damage and exchange information and the victim's car is taken. If you are bumped from behind or if someone tries to alert you to a problem with your vehicle, pull over only when you reach a safe public place.
- **Good Samaritan** - The attacker(s) stage what appears to be an accident. They may simulate an injury. The victim stops to assist, and the victim's car is taken. Think before stopping to assist in an accident. It may be safer to call and report the location, number of cars involved, and any injuries you observed.
- **The Ruse** - The car behind the victim flashes its lights or the driver waves to get the victim's attention. The attacker tries to indicate that there is a problem with the victim's car. The victim pulls over and their car is taken. Keeping driving do not stop and get out of your car. Drive to a populated and well-lit location.
- **The Trap** - Attackers use surveillance to follow the victim home. When the victim pulls into his or her driveway or waits for the gate or garage door to open, the attacker pulls up behind them and blocks the victim's car. The victim's car is taken. If you think you are being followed call 911 and drive to the nearest police department or populated well-lit business. Do not get out of your car

