

# CRIME ALERT

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1st Precinct

November 5, 2009

## Facts:

In the past several weeks there has been a dramatic increase in **theft from motor vehicle** in the 1st Precinct. Thieves are primarily targeting cars containing electronic items. There are steps you can take to decrease the likelihood of becoming a victim.

## What you can do:

- **Remove valuables from your vehicle**, including GPS, wallets, purses, laptops, iPods, cell phones, etc. Remember that even a gym/book bag or briefcase may be attractive to thieves because they will not know what is inside.
- Do *not* leave anything in your car with personal information.
- If your credit cards are stolen, notify the credit card companies immediately. See <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/crime-prevention/docs/identity.pdf> for more information on guarding your identity.
- Get a security program/code for your laptop or phone.
- Record the make, model, and serial number of all electronic devices to increase the chance of getting them back. For information on home inventory forms, visit <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/crime-prevention/> under Forms.
- Place valuables in the trunk *before* reaching your destination.
- Call 911 for suspicious activity, especially if you notice people loitering around vehicles or checking door handles.
- Park in well-lit, well-traveled areas.
- **Lock** your car doors.
- Stay aware of your surroundings.

To find more crime prevention tips on many topics, including the ones above, please visit:

<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/crime-prevention/>.

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