



VEHICLE SAFETY

The best crime prevention is being alert to your surroundings. Don't put yourself and your family in situations or locations where crime is most likely to occur. Be prepared. You can reduce the risk of becoming a crime victim by taking a few simple precautions.

- Always lock and start your car immediately. Keep doors and windows locked after entering or when leaving your car
- Be alert to any activity near your car. Pay attention to your surroundings.



- Park in well-lit, active areas.
- Always have your key in hand ready to unlock your car and check the back seat and locks before entering your car.
- If you think you are being followed, drive to a public place, such as a police, sheriff, or fire station.
- If your car breaks down, open the hood and attach a white cloth to the car antenna.
- If someone stops to help, stay in the locked car, roll down the window just a little and ask them to call the police, sheriff, AAA or a tow truck.

Don't stop to aid motorists on the side of the road. Phone and request help for them.

Thrusting a gun in your face and taking your car while you are in a parking lot, at a traffic signal, getting gas, or simply waiting in your car is called Car Jacking and it can happen to you.

- If someone threatening you blocks your path- way, keep going, don't stop.
- Stay out of high crime areas.
- Be suspicious of people approaching your car asking for directions, change, or giving out flyers.
- When stopping in traffic, leave enough distance between your car and the car in front of you, so you can pull away quickly and carefully.
- If a suspicious person approaches your car, drive away quickly and carefully even if you must go through a traffic light. Of course, be careful to avoid an accident.
- If another vehicle bumps your car, or your tire goes flat, keep your doors and windows closed and wait for law enforcement to arrive or put your flashers on and drive slowly to the nearest police station or populated area such as a store or gas station.
- Be especially alert when using drive-up ATM machines.
- Keep valuables out of view when traveling. Store them in the trunk.



For further information please call the Sanford Police Department Community Policing Unit at 407.688.5072