



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
City of Duluth - Police Department

2030 North Arlington Avenue, Duluth, MN 55811
218-730-5400 | www.duluthmn.gov | Mike Tusken, Chief of Police



For more information contact Ron Tinsley, Public Information Officer 218-391-1510

DATE: 3/8/2017

SUBJECT: Help Duluth Police Reduce Vehicle Thefts

BY: Duluth Police Department Public Information Officer Ron Tinsley (218) 730-5722

NATURE OF INCIDENT: Media/Public Notification

CASE NO.:

INCIDENT DATE:

INCIDENT TIME:

INCIDENT LOCATION: Duluth Area

The Duluth Police Department does not want you to be a victim of auto theft and is offering the following suggestions to help stop someone from taking your car or truck.

The most important thing you can do to prevent auto theft is to maintain control of your keys and key fobs. The National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) reported one of every eight vehicles stolen in 2015 had the key or fob left inside the vehicle.

During the month of January, 2017, fifteen motor vehicles were reported stolen in Duluth. Of those fifteen vehicles, ten were stolen with keys; and four of those vehicles had been left running by their owner at the time they were stolen. The keys to the vehicles stolen in Duluth were left by the vehicle owners in the ignition, in common hiding spots in the vehicle, or were stolen from inside owner's homes by acquaintances or visitors.

To help stop thieves from taking your vehicle, please follow these guidelines:

- Always maintain control of your vehicle keys and fobs. Do not leave keys in your vehicle, even in hiding spots. Car thieves know where to look and in all likelihood, the place you think is a great hiding spot will be checked by the would-be thief.
- In your home, store keys/fobs in a secure location. For example, do not leave them on a hook or in a bowl next to the door.
- Do not leave a running car or truck unattended. If you want to warm up your vehicle on a cold day, invest in a remote starter which will turn the vehicle off if someone tries to enter it or drive it without the key.
- Keep your vehicle locked with windows up, even if parked in a garage.
- Avoid parking in remote locations, and park your vehicle in well-lit areas at night.
- Avoid keeping valuables in your unattended vehicle. If you must keep valuable items in your vehicle, make sure they are out of sight, and in locked compartments, whenever possible.
- Many newer vehicles have standard alarm systems or vehicle tracking systems to help deter theft and aid in vehicle recovery. If yours does not, then consider installing one of these systems in your vehicle.

If everyone in Duluth followed these simple guidelines, the crime of motor vehicle theft would nearly be eliminated in Duluth. Please do your part to protect your vehicle and help stop auto theft!