

If You Are A Carjacking Victim

If you are the victim of a carjacking, the safety of you and your passengers is the priority. Do not argue or fight with the carjacker. Immediately leave the car and your belongings and call 911 if your phone is on your person. As best as you can, recollect the description of the suspects, vehicle, direction of their travel, and relay the information to the 911 dispatchers. Remember, your safety and the safety of your passengers comes first!



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Richfield Police Department



Crime Prevention Unit

Carjacking Safety Tips



Crime Prevention Tips Every Driver Should Keep in Mind to Avoid a Carjacking

- Carjacking offenses are crimes of opportunity — the offenders are always searching for the most vulnerable prey or highest value auto.
- ALWAYS keep your doors LOCKED and windows up whether you are inside or out of your vehicle.
- When stopped in traffic, keep at least one car length between you and the car in front of you. This gives you space to maneuver and escape, if necessary.
- Keep your purse, backpack, tablet, laptop, and other valuables in the trunk or out of sight. (Keep your phone on you.)



- Be aware of your surroundings at all times, even in areas or places you feel safe.
- Beware of individuals approaching your vehicle to ask for directions, hand out flyers, ask for money, or asking for a ride. These are ways that a thief can divert your attention.

- Stay vigilant at public garages, parking lots and ramps, gas stations, car washes, drive-up ATM machines, and at all stop lights and stop sign controlled intersections.

- Prior to parking your vehicle on a street or in your driveway, ensure you are not being followed or there are no suspicious individuals in the area. If you are unsure, pull around the block once or twice and ensure it is safe to park.



- Be aware of “Bump and Rob” style offenses where a car, containing at least two occupants, lightly rear-ends or bumps your vehicle. Once you exit your car to evaluate the damage, one of the offenders will attempt to drive off with your car. Law enforcement professionals recommend not exiting your vehicle immediately but slowly determining if it is truly an accident or an intentional act. If your senses feel it may have been intentional, drive to the nearest police station or a well-lit public area.
- Keep your cell phone charged and readily available but it keep it out of your hand while driving! Offenders look for distracted drivers. If you must use your phone’s navigation system, use a hands-free cell phone holder.

- Keep your vehicle keys and house keys on separate key rings.
- Invest in GPS tracking services through your manufacturer or products offered by an automotive professional.
- Subscribe to family mapping, lost phone tracking and other cell phone GPS software or apps that can immediately assist law enforcement if your vehicle is stolen with your phone in it.
- Do not leave your car running unattended with the key in the ignition. (Even with the doors locked.)
- Do not leave your vehicle running even if you take the key fob with you. Most vehicles utilizing push-button ignitions and key fobs can still be driven even without the key fob inside the vehicle! Thieves will be able to drive these vehicles as long or as far as they’d like until they run out of gas or turn off the car.

