

YOUR RESPONSIBILITY AS A CAR OWNER...

Notify the Department of Motor Vehicles whenever you move so the address on your registration can be changed. In case your vehicle is stolen, unnecessary delays can be avoided in locating you after it has been recovered.

When buying a motor vehicle from anyone except a licensed dealer, obtain the license and vehicle identification numbers so they can be checked before you part with any money.

If you are selling your car privately and a prospective buyer wants to test it, go with him. Even if he is not a thief, you can be held liable for his actions while operating your vehicle. Do not accept a check in payment from a stranger.

When a vehicle has been loaned to an acquaintance or relative and the borrower is late in returning it, the police cannot take a stolen report unless you obtain a warrant for unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.

The police do not have jurisdiction in cases where someone is delinquent in making payments for a car they purchased from you. Collection of payment or repossession of the vehicle is a civil matter only.

Call **1-800-947-HEAT** to report an auto thief. It can pay up to \$10,000.

Last year 21,284 autos were stolen in Virginia. A 68% increase since 1986.

Some thefts resulted in murders and vehicular homicides. 20% involved trucks, motorcycles and vehicles other than cars. Over 60% were committed by teenagers. And most of the stolen autos were sold to buy drugs.


Now there's a safe, easy and completely confidential way to help eliminate auto theft. And profit from it at the same time.

If you suspect cars, trucks or any other types of vehicles or parts may be stolen, call **1-800-947-HEAT**.

If your tip leads to an arrest or conviction, you could receive a reward of up to \$10,000, along with the knowledge that you're helping put the brakes on Virginia's fastest-growing crime.



The development of this brochure is the result of a cooperative effort between the Lynchburg Police Department and the Virginia State Police.



HELP ELIMINATE AUTO THEFT

1-800-947-HEAT

The graphic features the word "HEAT" in large, bold, black letters on a red background. A pair of red handcuffs is positioned over the letter "A". To the right of the word, the text "HELP ELIMINATE AUTO THEFT" is written vertically in white, bold, sans-serif font. Below this, the phone number "1-800-947-HEAT" is also written vertically in white, bold, sans-serif font.

PROTECT YOUR CAR FROM CRIME

Auto theft is increasing at an alarming rate. Whether your car or your neighbor's is stolen, everyone pays for auto theft through increased insurance rates.

In addition to stealing automobiles, criminals also have found it profitable to steal equipment and accessories as well as parcels or other valuables left unprotected inside your car.

The Police Department urges you to follow these practical steps to protect your vehicle.

Prevent Auto Theft

Lock it and Pocket the Key

The majority of stolen cars were left unlocked. Many times the keys were left inside the car, or even in the ignition. Whether you leave your car for a moment or for several hours, ALWAYS double check to see that all doors and windows are secure—lock your car and take the keys with you.

Control your keys

Keep car keys and house keys on separate rings. Never have an identification tag such as a miniature license or name plate on your key ring. This only helps the thief locate your car should your keys be lost or stolen. Never hide an extra car key under the hood; criminals know where to look for hidden keys.

Secure your registration

Do not keep your vehicle registration inside your car. Carry it with you, perhaps with your driver's license.

Park in well lighted and busy areas.

This is important for your safety as well as for the protection of your car. If you usually park in an unprotected area, consider installing an electronic door unlocking device.

Report Suspicious or abandoned vehicles and Suspicious Persons.

Call your Police Department immediately if you suspect a theft has occurred or is about to occur.

Theft from Auto

Don't make it easy to steal; participate in operation identification by marking your social security number on equipment and accessories (such as battery, stereo, C.B., radio and hub caps).

If you don't own an engraver we will be happy to loan you one.

Secure Valuables and Parcels

Avoid leaving valuables unattended in your car. If your car does not have a trunk, make sure parcels are not left in plain view inside your car.

**Call 1-800-947-HEAT to
report an auto thief. It can
pay up to \$10,000.**

Carjacking

Armed Theft of Automobiles From Their Drivers

Before you enter your car...

- Be alert to any activity near your car. Pay attention to your surroundings.
- When approaching your car to enter it, have your keys in hand and check the back seat and make sure the doors you left locked are still locked.
- If there is someone loitering near your unoccupied car as you approach, do not get in.

Once you are in your car...

- Keep your doors and windows locked.
- Avoid high crime areas, especially after dark.
- Be suspicious of people approaching your car asking for directions or change or giving out flyers.
- When stopping in traffic, leave enough distance between your car and the one in front of you so you can pull away quickly if necessary.
- If another driver bumps your car or your tire goes flat, keep your doors and windows closed and locked and wait for the Police to arrive or drive slowly to the nearest Police station, service station or convenience store.
- Be alert when using drive up automated teller (ATM) machines. Pull as close as possible to the ATM, check your rearview mirror and outside the driver's side before opening the window. Stop only at ATM's that are well lighted and visible from the street.
- If you are confronted, don't resist the carjacker's attempts to take possession of your car. Get out of the car quickly.