

# Layer 4

## Tracking Systems

There are also tracking systems that emit a signal to the police or a monitoring service when the vehicle is reported stolen. If your vehicle has a tracking system and is stolen, it can often be recovered faster and with less damage.

## Carjacking

Help protect yourself and your car by taking some simple precautions:

- ▶ Do not approach your vehicle if someone is loitering near it. Always pay attention to your surroundings and nearby activity.
- ▶ Always check the back seat before opening the door.
- ▶ Once in your vehicle, keep your doors locked and windows closed.
- ▶ Be wary of people who approach your vehicle for any reason.
- ▶ When stopped in traffic, leave enough distance from the car in front of you to pull away quickly if necessary.
- ▶ Stop only at ATMs that are well lit and visible from the street. Always check your surroundings before opening your window.
- ▶ If an armed carjacker confronts you, don't resist - get out of the car quickly. Better to lose your car than your life.

Louisiana Automobile Theft &  
Insurance Fraud Prevention Authority  
Louisiana Department of Insurance  
P.O. Box 94214  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9214  
Phone:225-342-0819

Louisiana Department of Insurance 2010

This public document is published at a total cost of \$811.89. Ten thousand copies of this public document were published in this sixth printing at a cost of \$790. The total cost of all printings of this document including reprints is \$4,131.07. This document was published by Franklin Press, 1390 Highland Rd., Baton Rouge, LA 70802 to promote public awareness and community education on vehicle theft prevention and insurance fraud and to provide public training in theft prevention measures under authority of the Division of Administration. This material was printed in accordance with standards for printing by State Agencies established in R.S. 43:31. Printing of this material was purchased in accordance with the provisions of Title 43 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes.

# Don't be a victim

# Of



# Vehicle Theft

## Tips for vehicle crime prevention

From the Louisiana Automobile Theft &  
Insurance Fraud Prevention Authority  
**Louisiana Department of Insurance**  
*James J. Donelon, Commissioner*

**Vehicle theft** is no longer just a crime committed by teenagers. It has become big business, run by organized crime rings out to make huge profits.

Car theft rings are often on the lookout for vehicles they can quickly ship out for sale in other countries or take apart at local “chop shops” and sell for parts. And don’t assume your older model car is safe. Older cars are often stripped for parts that are sold for two to three times the value of the vehicle.

Stolen cars are also in great demand for use in residential and commercial robberies, check and credit card fraud schemes, identity theft activities, illegal drug trafficking and even drive-by shootings.

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**The high incidents of auto theft claims in Louisiana ultimately lead to higher costs for auto insurance.**

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***Make your vehicle a tough target with the “Layered Approach” to theft prevention.***

## ***Layer 1***

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### **Use common sense**

- ▶ Lock your doors.
- ▶ Remove your keys from the ignition, and never leave your car’s engine running, not even in your driveway or for a quick errand.
- ▶ Close your windows completely.
- ▶ Never hide a second set of keys anywhere on your car. Thieves know where all of the “hiding places” are.
- ▶ Don’t tempt car thieves. Keep valuables out of plain sight. Take them with you or store them in the trunk.
- ▶ Whenever possible, park in well lit lots and garages that have security and/or parking lot attendants.
- ▶ Don’t park in the farthest corner of the lot, but rather near the entrance of a facility to insure the most foot traffic and the most potential witnesses.
- ▶ Park with the wheels turned toward the curb - even when parking in driveways and parking lots. This makes your vehicle difficult to tow.
- ▶ Keep your registration and insurance information with you and never leave personal information in your car.
- ▶ Always use your emergency brake when parking.
- ▶ Park your vehicle in a garage, if possible, and always lock both your car and the garage.

## ***Layer 2***

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### **Use visible & audible deterrents**

- ▶ Audible alarm system - use one that has a pager that will notify you as soon as your alarm is activated.
- ▶ Steering wheel locks
- ▶ Steering column collars
- ▶ Theft deterrent decals
- ▶ Tire locks
- ▶ Drop your business card into the doors through the window slots to identify your car as yours.

## ***Layer 3***

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### **Vehicle Immobilizers**

Stop thieves from bypassing your ignition or “hot wiring” your vehicle by installing a vehicle immobilizer system, such as:

- ▶ “Smart Keys” with computer chips that must be present to start the vehicle.
- ▶ Fuse cut-offs.
- ▶ Kill switches.
- ▶ Starter, ignition and fuel disablers.
- ▶ Disable your vehicle by removing the ignition fuse, coil wire or distributor rotor if it is going to be unattended for a long period of time.