



## **Bakersfield Composite Squadron #121**

## **60-Second Safety Advisor #25**

### **Preventing Auto Theft**

With over 1 million vehicles stolen every year, vehicle theft is a major problem. Here are a few suggestions from Bakersfield Police Department's Neighborhood Watch Program to help reduce the risk of auto theft:

- Lock your vehicle and pocket the keys. Nearly 20% of all vehicles stolen had the keys in them.
- If you have a garage, use it. Lock your garage door. Also lock your vehicle doors, even when your vehicle is in the garage.
- On cold mornings, never leave your motor vehicle running in your driveway while it is unattended to warm up.
- If you use self service gasoline stations or convenience stores, don't leave the keys in the vehicle when you go inside to pay your bill.
- Consider installing safety security film on the windows of your vehicles. With the film added to the glass, the window will be 300% - 400% stronger.
- Whenever possible, park in well lighted and busy areas.
- If possible, avoid parking next to vans, pick-ups and other large vehicles. These large vehicles can "hide" your vehicle and make it more difficult for others to observe.
- When parking along a curb, angle the front tires sharply to the left or the right, making it difficult for the thief to tow it away.
- Periodically check you license plates to make sure they have not been stolen, switched or altered.
- Do not invite a vehicle break-in by leaving packages or valuables in sight. Take valuables with you, put them under the seat or discretely lock them in the trunk.
- Whenever possible, park in an attended lot. Motor vehicle thieves do not like witnesses and prefer unattended parking lots.
- Park as close as possible to an opened business.
- Install an anti-theft alarm system in your vehicle. Anti-theft devices are not foolproof, but they can stop the amateur criminal and slow down the professional.

