

Preventing Carjacking Tips

A carjacking can happen anywhere and anytime, but is most likely to happen in places where the driver is getting in or out of the car or where the car comes to a stop. High risk places include parking lots, payphones, traffic light intersections, convenience stores, gas stations, hotels, and ATM's.

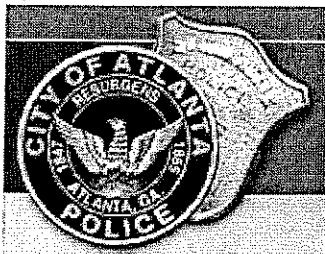
Carjackers seldom operate alone. Although you only may have seen the guy who stuck a gun in your face, chances are that there are more of them around. Car thieves in general and carjackers especially tend to operate in groups. Often a driver will stop, let one of the members out of his car and wait until the vehicle has been stolen. They will then caravan to a drop-off point, and the thief will rejoin his comrades. Working in this manner, a group of thieves can steal many cars in one night and split several thousand dollars.

Be aware if anyone hanging around the lot and avoid parking next to large vehicles, trees or bushes. Use Your Mirrors. When stopped in traffic, at a stop sign, or stoplight use your side and rear view mirror. Be very cautious if your car is bumped from behind, this could be a possible carjacking. If you are suspicious, stay in the car and drive to a busy area.

When returning to your car have your keys ready so that you can get inside promptly. Check around to make sure there is no one hiding beside or in your car. Once inside your car lock all the doors, keep windows closed and drive away as soon as possible.

As a general rule of thumb, when driving anytime, you should avoid high risk areas and keep a full tank of gas. Of course, you should drive with your car doors locked and windows rolled up all the way up. When approaching a stoplight, drive slowly so that you are still moving when the light turns green. When stopped at an intersection, leave enough room between you and the car in front of you to maneuver sideways in case you need to drive away.

If you are confronted by an armed carjacker don't resist, it's best to give up your keys without resistance. Usually the criminal just wants your car. Don't argue, fight or chase the robber. Remember, during a carjacking you should always think of your safety first. Saving your car is not worth an angry criminal who can hurt or possibly kill.



CRIME STOPPERS ATLANTA

Help solve a crime. Give an anonymous tip.
Rewards up to \$2000.

(404) 577-TIPS (8477)
crimestoppersatlanta.org



Sponsored by Atlanta Police Foundation

