

JANUARY 2018



## Raleigh Police Department Community Newsletter

This newsletter is produced by the Public Affairs Unit of the Raleigh Police Department. It provides Raleigh citizens with crime prevention tips, seasonal information, and upcoming RPD community activities.

### RALEIGH VEHICLE BREAK-INS

- Unlocked cars are 20 times more likely to be broken into than locked vehicles.
- Unlocked cars are estimated to make up over 95% of the vehicles broken into.
- In 2016, 182 firearms were stolen from vehicles in the City of Raleigh.
- Fewer than .06% of locked vehicles were broken into; most of these had a bag, purse, or other item of perceived value visible from the outside.

Most criminals look for easy targets--make sure you're not one of them. There are a variety of actions you can take every day to ensure your own safety and the safety of the ones you love.

Reducing your chances of being a target is simpler than you may think. This edition of the RPD Community Newsletter features tips to keep you safe while driving and keep your vehicle safe from theft. Please share this information with family, friends, and neighbors.

### PROTECTING YOUR VEHICLE FROM THEFT AND TAMPERING

You can save yourself and your family a lot of frustration, stress, and interruption to your daily life by taking some simple precautions to reduce the risk of you or your vehicle becoming a target by following these steps:

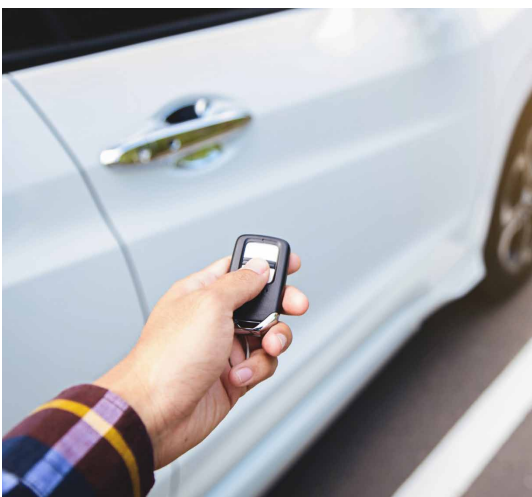
#### ***Lock Your Vehicle***

An unlocked vehicle with a key in the ignition is an open invitation to thieves, regardless of any anti-theft device you may use. The common-sense approach to protection is the simplest and most cost-effective way to thwart would-be thieves. You should always secure your vehicle, even if you're parking for "just a minute." Do this by:

- Closing all of your windows.
- Parking in a well-lit area.
- Never leaving your engine running and vehicle unlocked while you run into your home, a convenience store, or anywhere else.

#### ***Hide Your Valuables***

One of the most common types of theft is that of valuables from your vehicle. Theft from autos is strictly a crime of opportunity that can be prevented if you take away the opportunity. Thieves generally won't waste their time breaking into cars without valuables in plain sight.



Please call 911 if you have experienced a crime or if you want to report any suspicious activity.

## NEW STATE DRIVER'S EDUCATION LAW TEACHES DRIVERS WHAT TO DO DURING TRAFFIC STOPS



A new state law took effect on January 1 regarding driver's education. It states that driver's education handbooks must outline how drivers should properly engage with officers during a traffic stop.

The Department of Motor Vehicles has included guidelines for traffic stops in its handbook since at least 1972. A new bill gave the agency a chance to update and revise them with the help of law enforcement agencies.

### Some of those tips include:

- Slow down and safely pull over to the right-hand shoulder or nearest safe location.
- Keep hands clearly in sight on the steering wheel until the police officer instructs otherwise.
- Do not get out of the vehicle until asked to do so.
- Comply with the officer at the moment. Do not argue.
- Expect the officer to treat you with dignity and respect; report any inappropriate behavior to the department afterward.

## HOW TO CREATE YOUR OWN ROADSIDE EMERGENCY KIT

When it comes to commuting or traveling long distances, a roadside emergency kit can mean the difference between getting back on the road and being stranded for hours. It is the one item every vehicle should have. A basic roadside emergency kit should include some of the following items:

- Jumper cables
- Flares or triangle reflectors. LED flares are also an option worth considering.
- A quart or more of motor oil
- A gallon of coolant
- First-aid kit
- Blanket
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Tool kit with screwdrivers, pliers, adjustable wrench, pocket knife
- A can of tire inflator and sealant such as Fix-a-Flat
- Tire pressure gauge
- Paper towels
- Spray bottle with washer fluid
- Ice scraper
- Pen and paper
- Granola or energy bars
- Bottled water

Unfortunately, there isn't one tool for all roadside emergencies. But with a little planning and some organization, you'll have a kit that could save the day.

## WHAT TO DO WHEN A TRAFFIC LIGHT IS OUT

If the traffic signal is totally dark, all drivers are to stop at the intersection, then proceed through that intersection as if all directions had a STOP sign, unless:

- Law enforcement or other authorized persons are directing traffic,
- or
- There are portable stop signs located on select approaches.

If the signal is in flashing mode, drivers having a flashing red light are to stop and yield to other drivers before proceeding through the intersection. Drivers having a flashing yellow light are to proceed with caution.