



Police Advisory



Theft of Running Autos – 4th Precinct

January 2, 2018

Facts:

Since November 1st there have been at least 35 cars stolen in the 4th precinct which were left running unattended. These thefts have taken place all across the precinct. Please see the accompanying flyer for further details.

None of these cars would probably have been stolen if their owners hadn't left them running.

What you can do:

- **NEVER LEAVE YOUR KEYS IN THE IGNITION OF YOUR CAR WHILE UNATTENDED.**
- During the colder months, car thieves take advantage of residents who leave their cars running unattended. The temptation to start the car and let it warm up while you stay warm inside or leaving it running while doing a short errand could be a costly mistake! Even if you lock the car, it only takes seconds to break a window or jimmy a door lock
- It is against City ordinance to leave your key in the ignition while you are not in your car (Minneapolis City Ordinance 478.160, Open ignition—a petty misdemeanor).
- Officers may issue tickets to any cars that are running with no driver present. In fact, if your car is reported stolen and your keys are in it, you may also get a ticket.
(It is legal to use a remote starter but they will provide some temptation to a car thief. If the car is running they may still attempt to break into the vehicle.)
- If you have a garage, use it. Nearly all stolen cars are taken from the street, driveway, or parking lot.

Please call the 4th Precinct Property Crimes Unit at 673-5714 if you have any information about any of these auto thefts. You can remain anonymous. For additional crime prevention information please call your sector Crime Prevention Specialist. Call 673-5704 for more information.

Receive time sensitive crime prevention alerts, gain valuable knowledge and crime prevention resources by signing up on: www.minneapolismn.gov/police/crimealert/police_crimealert_signup

The Minneapolis Police Department never shares your email address with solicitors.

**Running your car to keep it warm
may leave you in the cold!**