



# Orange County Sheriff's Department

## Tips to prevent Auto Burglaries and Car Phishing

Crime is like a table with three legs - it takes all three legs to stand. If you take away even one leg, the table isn't supported. Desire, ability, and opportunity must all exist to support crime. Even though we may not be able to stop someone's desire to commit a crime, we can take away their ability and/or their opportunity to commit the crime.

**DESIRE + ABILITY + OPPORTUNITY = CRIME**

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### ◆ Curb Auto Burglary and Car Phishing

The simple act of placing valuables into the trunk of your car **before** you reach your destination can significantly reduce the likelihood of being a victim of auto burglary and car phishing. It only takes a few seconds to put your valuables in the trunk and out of plain view. A laptop, cell phone, GPS, purse, or even a cup holder full of change can tempt a thief.

Sometimes we give the wrong impression to criminals. We put our valuables in the floorboard or seat and cover them. Actually this often has the opposite effect and broadcasts that there is something of value in the car.

### ◆ Natural Surveillance

One of the techniques used in modern crime prevention is "natural surveillance." While this principle is usually applied to buildings and area design, you can use it to your advantage too. Park in an area where the likelihood is greatest that others will view it with the greatest frequency. Criminals do not like to commit their acts in plain view of many people, they like seclusion with the highest chance of being unnoticed.

### ◆ Prevention Tips

- ⇒ Close your windows & lock your doors (the simplest & easiest prevention technique).
- ⇒ Remove valuables or place them in the trunk of your automobile before you arrive at your destination.
- ⇒ Remove 'pull-out' style radio face plates (if equipped).
- ⇒ Park in well-lit areas when possible.
- ⇒ Park where your car will be easily & frequently viewed (natural surveillance).
- ⇒ Park in your garage if you have one.
- ⇒ Be sure to remove garage door opener devices from car visors and keep in a safe place such as a glove box or center console so they are not visible when parking in your driveway.
- ⇒ Use a car alarm, it will alert anyone nearby.

### ◆ By the Numbers

- 30 - The seconds it takes for a thief to break into your car and steal your valuables!
- 20 - The seconds it takes to put your valuables into your trunk, out of sight!

*A reminder to report suspicious activity by calling the Sheriff's Department non-emergent number 949-770-6011. For further information or if you have questions please contact the Southeast Unincorporated Crime Prevention Unit at 949-206-6197*