

## **VEHICLE SECURITY**

### **Lock up**

- An unlocked car is an open invitation to a car thief.
- Lock up when you leave your car, and take the keys with you.
- Lock the trunk or tailgate.
- Close all windows-professional thieves have tools that unlock cars through the smallest openings.
- Be sure vent or wind-wing windows are shut tight.
- When you park the car, remove cellular phones, cassette players and other valuable possessions.
- Do not leave gift-wrapped packages or cameras lying on the seat.
- Lock all valuables in your trunk or take them with you.
- Lock your car even if you are making a quick stop at the gas station, convenience store or mini-mall.

### **Park carefully**

- Don't leave an auto in unattended public parking lots for an extended period.
- A car is five times more likely to be stolen from an unattended lot than from the street or attended lot.
- If possible, park your car in a lot where you don't have to leave your keys.
- Never attach a tag with your name and address to your key ring.
- If the keys are lost or stolen, the tag will lead the thief directly to your car and your home.
- If you have to leave your keys with a parking attendant, leave only the ignition key.
- At night, park in well-lit areas with lots of people around.
- Turn wheels sharply towards the curb when parking, this makes it extra difficult for thieves to tow your car.

### **Operation I.D.**

- With an electric engraver, etch your driver's license number (preceded by the letters "CA") on cassette players and other valuable items.
- Record your vehicle identification number (located on a small metal plate on the dashboard of newer cars) and store it in a safe place.

### **Use anti-theft devices**

- When buying a car, check the manufacture's list of anti-thefts options, such as interior hood and trunk releases, locking steering columns and others.
- Consider the purchase and installation of security devices, such as:
  - Interior hood lock release.

- Second ignition switch or "kill switch" to prevent electrical current from reaching the coil distributor.
- Fuel switch to prevent fuel from reaching the carburetor.
- Locking gas cap.
- Locking device for batteries, wheels, decks, etc
- Alarm device to activate a siren, horn or lights-or all three- to frighten the thief away.
- Device that attaches to the steering wheel or brake pedal.

### **Carjacking**

- Keep your doors locked. Park in well-lit, busy areas.
- Be alert of your surroundings, of people approaching your vehicle.
- Stick with the traffic; avoid lightly traveled streets, especially after dark.
- Keep car and house keys or separate key chains.
- Keep the garage door opener in your purse or briefcase.
- When stopped in traffic, always leave enough room to make an emergency getaway.
- If someone is threatening you with a weapon, give up the vehicle-it's not worth your life.

### **How to prevent theft of other motor vehicles:**

#### **Lock it**

- Make sure all easy-to-carry items like motors, water skis and camping gear are locked up before leaving your vehicle.

#### **Chain it**

- Vehicles carried on trailers should be secured with a strong chain and padlock.
- When the trailer is not attached to your car, secure it with a heavy chain and lock to a stationary object.
- Chain your motorcycle or snowmobile to a stationary object such as a lamppost or sewer grating.
- Even when your vehicle is in the garage, use a heavy chain and padlock that resists conventional steel hacksaw blades.