



Tulane University Police Department

1555 Poydras Street, Suite 938, New Orleans, La. 70112

Dispatch: 504-988-5531 Fax: 504-988-6667



To: Tulane Community Members

From: Sgt. Roger Barnes, Community Policing Coordinator, TUPD

Date: 11/22/16

Subject: Car Jacking Safety tips

Hello All,

Carjacking: It is a crime that seems worlds away, but it is a crime that is occurring with alarming frequency. It can happen on your way to the grocery store, or on your way home from work. No one is exempt from this crime that is sweeping the Nation and creating fear.

Are you a target for carjacking and do you know what precautions to take to lessen your chances of becoming a victim? Concerned with this safety issue, the TUPD encourages all drivers to exercise caution when traveling.

The [National Insurance Crime Bureau](#), in its most recently released statistics, indicated that about 35,000 carjackings or other auto-related abductions occur in the United States each year. Nearly 75 percent of all carjackings involve the use of a gun or other deadly weapon.

Carjacking has become a very common crime. People tend to feel safe in their cars because it is a familiar, comfortable surrounding. It is not our intention to make people fearful of driving. However, people need to take precautions, particularly women age 35 or younger.

It is estimated that nearly half of all carjackings occur while the driver is waiting at a traffic signal or stop sign. Another common place for these incidents is parking lots or garages. It is difficult to determine how many of these crimes could have been prevented, but we have some suggestions on how drivers can reduce their chances of being carjacked.

1. If avoidable, do not travel alone after dark. **The majority of carjacking incidents occur between the hours of 10:00pm and 2:00am.**
2. If you are not familiar with the area in which you are traveling, **“map out” the area in advance, use highways and avoid side streets.**
3. **Download “RAVE Guardian”, a free phone app, to your mobile device. It has several features that can aid you in notifying the TUPD and much more:**
<http://www2.tulane.edu/police/guardian.cfm>
4. **Always travel “to” and “from” your vehicle with “keys in hand”.**
5. **Always check your underneath your vehicle as well as the rear seat/floor before entering.**

Carjacking Safety

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6. **Wear comfortable shoes that you can “run in” if necessary** (you can change shoes, if desired, after safely reaching your destination).
7. **Always keep your vehicle doors locked.**
8. Whenever possible, **travel in the middle lane.**
9. **At traffic signals (lights or signs) leave yourself adequate space.** In an emergency situation, you may have to quickly maneuver out of a dangerous situation.
10. If your vehicle is “bumped” by another vehicle or if someone tries to indicate to you that something is wrong with your vehicle, **DO NOT PULL OVER!** Travel to the nearest populated gas station or police station to check on your vehicle. **This is a common technique used by carjackers to get you to pull over in unsafe areas.**
11. If your vehicle breaks down, contact the police and/or vehicle assistance. Also alert someone that you know of the problem you are having. **DO NOT** accept help from a stranger. **Inform them that you have notified the police and that they are on the way to help you.** Only accept help from an officer **in a “marked vehicle”.**
12. **Scan the area before parking and always try to park as close as you can to the entrance of your destination.**
13. **Once parked, carefully scan the area once more for safety before exiting.**
14. **If you have a garage, please use it and always lock it when it is unoccupied, even when you are home.**
15. If you are ever approached by someone who demands your valuables, to include your car, **give it to them (resisting can cause the subject to want to harm you).**
16. **NEVER LEAVE THE SCENE OF A CRIME WITH THE SUBJECT! They are usually powerless and want to lead you to a place where they are empowered to control or harm you!**
17. **Going to your car or exiting your car during late hours on campus? Contact the TUPD to standby while you do so! (504) 865-5381 or (504) 988-5531. We are here to serve you!**

In closing, the TUPD cares about your safety in all aspects from self-defense to survival skills to deploy while operating a motor vehicle.

If there are any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us. Thanks and take care.

Sgt. Roger L. Barnes
Community Policing
Coordinator, TUPD
Email: rbarnes1@tulane.edu