

OPERATION S.M.A.R.T. Driver

Vehicle burglaries are one of the most frequent crimes in Gilbert. Please be a S.M.A.R.T Driver and remember these very important tips when leaving your vehicle!!!!

S = <u>Secure your vehicle inside your garage or park in a well lit area.</u>

Your vehicle is more vulnerable out in the open. Try <u>not</u> to park street side. Park in your driveway or near your apartment so that the vehicle can be viewed periodically. If you have a garage, park inside and do not forget to close your garage door once inside.

M = <u>Make sure you have taken all of your personal property out of your vehicle.</u>

It is important to make certain that you take all of the valuables out of your vehicle when exiting. Burglars love to see items that can be easily carried away – such as;

Cash/change in ashtrays or cup holders

Jewelry

CD's Gym Bags Wallets/purses Tools

Mail Cell phones, IPODS, Lap tops and other electronics

A = <u>Always make copies of the documents you leave in your glove compartment and black out your address.</u>

Arizona is number 1 in the nation for identity theft. Because of this we need to be extremely conscious of our personal information. If someone were to access your glove compartment while you were shopping, or having the vehicle serviced or washed, they would have immediate access to your personal information. If your glove compartment locks, lock it – leave only redacted copies of your information in there.

R =Remember to always take your keys, garage opener and radio face plates with you.

Many times vehicle thefts begin as burglaries. A criminal finds a vehicle with valuables in it including the car keys. Never leave your keys in your vehicle. Taking your keys, garage door openers and radio faceplates with you each and every time you leave the vehicle is very important even when parking inside your own garage. Criminals have electronic garage door decoders which allows them entry into your garage. An open garage door is a crime of opportunity so please keep your garage doors closed.

T = Take the time to lock your vehicle and set your car alarm.

If you have a vehicle alarm – use it. If you hear a vehicle alarm sounding – pay attention and do not hesitate to contact police to report this suspicious activity. We count on you to be the eyes and ears of your community.

To report a crime such as vehicle burglary in progress, please call 911! To report a nonemergency matter, please call (480)503-6500.