Is this your car, left running with no one inside?

Leaving your vehicle running and unattended could be attracting crime into your neighborhood. The telltale plumes of exhaust in the early morning hours is like a red flag to an opportunistic team of auto thieves driving through apartment complex parking lots and residential neighborhoods. Even making a quick stop to drop off children to day care, dash inside a store or pick up mail from the mailbox while leaving your vehicle running and unattended is an invitation to auto theft.

Warm up auto thefts are preventable crimes, and when they happen, most victims are shocked that it has happened to them. Most victims have the belief that “It won’t happen to me,” or “I’ll only be a minute” or “I live in a nice neighborhood and those things don’t happen here.” These types of auto thefts drive up police auto theft numbers and help contribute to overall negative impressions of our beautiful city.

Do not assume locking the vehicle and continuing this type of behavior will thwart an auto thief – they know how to get into locked cars by breaking windows, prying open doors or punching out door locks.

Lock up and never leave your vehicle running and unattended.

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