

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Township of Upper Moreland

117 Park Avenue - Willow Grove - Pennsylvania - 19090
www.uppermoreland.org



Andrew J. Block
Chief of Police

215-657-4700
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Personal Safety Precautions

With the recent uptick of Armed Robberies and Car Jackings in the Delaware Valley region the Upper Moreland Police Department offers the following safety tips for residents and visitors to avoid becoming a victim of these crimes:

ALWAYS CONCEAL:

All valuables should be concealed at all times. Cash, cell phones, and purses are highly desirable items for thieves. They see it, they want it. In order to be safe, treat your cell phone and any other valuable item like cash: don't let anyone know you have it.

REPORT SUSPICIOUS PERSONS:

Call 9-1-1 to report suspicious persons. The police want to hear from you, and you could prevent a crime! When calling, provide as much information as possible, including the time you noticed the person, the clothing worn, the shoes worn, and the manner in which the person walked, or if they are using a vehicle.

THE STREET:

Always be aware of your surroundings, with particular interest to individuals near and around you. If someone looks suspicious or makes you feel uneasy, avoid that person. Go inside a store or business if necessary. If you must make a call while you are walking, go to a safe, public place, like a store. Make your call, then conceal your phone the way you would conceal your cash before going back to the street.

YOUR VEHICLE:

When leaving your vehicle, lock it and close the windows. Take your key. Don't leave items inside the vehicle, even if you think they look like trash. The items may still look attractive to a thief. When you get in the vehicle, close and lock the doors immediately. Keep the doors locked and the windows rolled up. Avoid making cell phone calls while driving. If you must make a call, pull over at a populated location, convenience store, shopping center, and keep an eye on who is near your vehicle.

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WHEN YOU ARE AT HOME:

When you are exiting or unloading your vehicle, when walking from your vehicle to your home, or when spending time in your front yard, follow these precautions:

- Be cautious of anyone on the street who makes you feel uneasy.
- If you view such a person and are in the front yard, quickly go inside and lock the doors.
- If you are in a vehicle, stay in the vehicle with locked doors and windows.
- Use a cell phone to call someone to escort you inside, or drive away and call 9-1-1.
- Never, ever open your door to anyone you do not know.

THE ATM:

Use ATMs in well lighted, populated areas. Store and bank ATMs during the day are recommended. Scan the area before using the ATM. If you see a person loitering in the area for no apparent reason, go to another location. If you see something strange during your transaction, push cancel, take your card, and leave the area. During and after the transaction, be alert. You'll have cash in hand making you a possible target. Scan the area. Leave immediately. If you suspect danger, promptly enter the nearest store or building and call 9-1-1.

Overall Personal Safety General Tips:

- Park your vehicle in well-lit areas closest to the establishment or store that you are patronizing.
- Always keep your cell phone readily accessible to call 9-1-1.
- Never stop for stranded motorists or pedestrians. Note the location and call 9-1-1 for the police department to respond and investigate.
- Trust your instincts. If you feel that something is wrong leave the area and call 9-1-1 immediately. Do not rationalize the incident!

Whenever in doubt call 9-1-1 so we may investigate your observations and concerns!

UPPER MORELAND TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT



CARJACKING WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

HOTSPOTS:

- Getting in and out of vehicle
- Residential driveways
- Parking Lots and garages
- Gas Stations
- ATM's
- Streets with poor lighting

TIP

Exercise heightened awareness in carjacking "hotspots"

FOOD DELIVERIES

The criminal calls for a food delivery to an address. When the food arrives, the criminal steals the delivery driver's vehicle.

SCENARIOS:

BUMP AND RUN

Bump: The criminal with at least one passenger bumps your vehicle

Run: Once you get out to assess the damage, your vehicle is stolen

TIP

Stay Inside your vehicle with the windows closed and the door locked. If you feel a threat put your flashers on, signal the driver to follow you and drive to the nearest police station.

SAFETY TIPS:

- Be aware of your surroundings
- Make it a habit start your car and drive away immediately
- Look around for suspicious persons in vehicles and loitering in an area before entering or exiting your vehicle
- Park in well-lit areas
- Keep your windows rolled up and doors locked
- Trust your instincts. If you feel something is wrong leave the area
- Keep your cell phone in your pocket to dial 9-1-1 easily
- Don't stop for stranded motorists along the road. Note their location and call 9-1-1

IF YOU ARE A VICTIM OF A CARJACKING:

If you are confronted by a carjacker give up your car and leave the scene.
Avoid verbal and physical confrontations.

Make a mental note of the suspect and their vehicle description,
If there is a child in your car let the carjacker know "my child is in the car".

YOUR VEHICLE CAN BE REPLACED. YOU ARE IRREPLACABLE!