

For More Information

Please call your local district station crime prevention office for more information:

Fair Oaks District Station

703-591-0966

Franconia District Station

703-922-0889

Mason District Station

703-256-8035

McLean District Station

703-556-7750

Mount Vernon Station

703-360-8400

Reston District Station

703-478-0904

Sully District Station

703-814-7000

West Springfield Station

703-644-7377



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FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT

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4100 Chain Bridge Road
Fairfax Virginia 22030

Phone: 703-691-2131
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police

This document is available in an alternative format upon request. Please call the Fairfax County Police Department at 703-246-7562 or TTY 703-204-2264.

FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Protect and Prevent

Carjacking



April 2007

GET A JUMP ON CARJACKERS

What is Carjacking?

Carjacking, stealing a car by force, has captured headlines across the country. Statistically your chances of being a carjacking victim in Fairfax County are very slim, and preventive actions you take can reduce your risk even more.

No one knows for certain why carjacking is on the rise. Some explanations may include:

- It's a crime of opportunity - a thief searching for the most vulnerable prey. Sometimes it's a first step in another crime.
- For some young people, carjacking may be a rite of passage, a status symbol, or just a thrill.
- Cars, especially luxury models, provide quick cash for drug users and other criminals.
- Sophisticated alarms and improved locking devices make it harder for thieves to steal unoccupied cars.
- Intense media interest may have created carjackers.

Reduce Your Chances of Being Carjacked

- Walk with purpose and stay alert. Approach your car with the key in hand. Look around, under and inside the car before getting in.
- Keep your doors locked and windows rolled up, no matter how short the distance or how safe the area. Look around, especially at places where you slow down or stop, such as garages and parking lots, intersections, self-serve gas stations and car washes, highway entry and exit ramps and ATMs.
- When you're coming to a stop, leave enough room to maneuver around other cars, especially if you sense trouble and need to get away. Avoid driving alone. Travel with someone if possible, especially at night.
- Don't stop to assist a stranger whose car is broken down. Help instead by calling the police to help.
- When stopped in traffic, leave enough distance from the car in front of you to pull away quickly if necessary.
- Park in well lighted areas, near side walks or walkways. Avoid parking near dumpsters, woods, large vans or trucks, or anything else that limits your visibility.

If It Happens to You

If the carjacker threatens you with a gun or other weapon, give up your car.

Don't argue. Your life is worth more than a car.

Get away as quickly as possible.

Call the police immediately.

