

# Community Alerts

Provided by Crime Awareness Unit of the DeKalb Police Department

4 January 2010



## "Auto Thefts"

During the cold winter months, the number of stolen vehicles may increase. Sometimes the owner of the vehicle assists the criminal in accomplishing their crime, by leaving an idling vehicle unattended. Although you may only be 10 feet away, a running vehicle, with the keys inside is very tempting to a passing criminal.



**Dial 911** immediately if you witness an Auto Theft in progress. Advise the direction of travel and any description of the vehicle's occupants. If you have information pertaining to any Auto Thefts in your area, contact the DeKalb Police Auto Theft Detectives at 770-724-7650.

Make your vehicle less enticing to criminals by:

- Always lock your vehicle and remove valuables out of sight
- Park in well lit areas for overnight parking
- Sign up for the DKPD "Watch Your Car" program and host a V.I.N. Etching event in your community
- If available, use your garage to house your vehicle overnight
- Install a vehicle GPS tracking system

Ways to possibly avoid becoming a victim of Auto Theft:

- Be prepared to sit in vehicle while it is warming up
- Never leave an idling vehicle unattended at home or at the gas station
- Do not leave an extra set of keys inside the vehicle
- Utilize the security mechanisms installed on the vehicle (alarm, the club, etc.)
- Call 911 for any suspicious persons or vehicles wondering in your community

\*\*\* Remember if you don't inform the Police,  
the Police don't know what's happening in your neighborhood. \*\*\*

