



Loss Control Department
Technical Information Paper Series

Carjacking:

*What To Do If It Happens To You
How To Avoid Becoming A Victim*

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TIPS Series S 331.751 Printed in U.S.A.

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Carjacking

What To Do If It Happens To You

How To Avoid Becoming A Victim

Carjacking is armed theft of an occupied vehicle, or a vehicle that someone is entering or exiting. Carjacking is becoming an increasingly common event, especially in urban areas. Here is some information to help you cope in a carjacking situation, and some advice to help you avoid becoming a victim of this frightening crime.

If You Are Confronted By a Carjacker

- Hand over your keys immediately. **Do not resist!**
- Keep your hands in plain view at all times.
- Back away from your vehicle as far and as quickly as possible.
- Do what is requested of you. (Frequently carjackers will demand your wallet or purse. Give it to them.)
- As soon as it is safe, call the police and report the crime.

Remember: Carjackers are usually armed. Do not try to be a hero!

Things to Do to Avoid Becoming a Victim Of a Carjacking-

- Be aware of your surroundings while approaching, entering, and exiting your vehicle. Being alert is the best protection.
- Park in well-lit areas. Avoid parking next to vans or next to occupied vehicles.
- When approaching your parked car, have your key out and ready *before* you get to the car. Check inside the car for hiding people *before* you enter the car.
- Once in your vehicle, immediately lock all doors. Keep them locked during your trip.
- Keep your windows rolled up.
- When driving at night, always stay on main streets and avoid high crime areas.
- If you must stop at a dark intersection, leave an adequate space cushion ahead so you can easily maneuver around the vehicle in front of you to quickly leave the area.
- If someone who looks suspicious approaches your car while you are waiting at an intersection, prepare to drive away assertively.
- If someone bumps your car from behind, be extremely cautious before exiting your vehicle. (One thing to watch for is a second person taking the wheel while the driver who bumped you approaches your car.)
- In any potential problem situation, remember to stay calm and use your head.

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