Parking Lot Safety Tips

Here are some helpful parking lot safety tips that may help you reduce the risk of becoming a victim of a crime:

- Be aware of your surroundings and don't allow yourself to be distracted (children, packages, cell phone, etc.).
- Avoid walking alone at night. Get a co-worker or friend to take you to your car.
- Walk with purpose as multiple studies have shown that a quick, purposeful walk sends subconscious signals to predators that you are not an easy mark.
- Keep a hand free at all times. This gives you the opportunity to attempt to fend-off a would-be attacker.
- Walk in the middle of aisles and ramps versus using parking garage stairs or elevators as they benefit predators.
- Park in a well-lighted area. Back into parking spaces where possible, allows for quick, easy exit.
- Avoid parking next to vans, pickups or other large vehicles. They can hide your vehicle making it easier to break in or for an attacker to hide.
- Remember where you parked so you don't spend unnecessary time walking the parking lot.
- Have your keys ready when approaching your car. Keep a whistle on your key chain or hand on car alarm if available.
- If you have an unlocking button or keyless entry system, unlock driver door only.
- Check your car before getting in. Look under and around the vehicle and also look in the back seats and on the floor.
- Once in your vehicle, lock the doors, turn lights on and get moving - limit the time you spend idle in the car.
- Note locations of emergency phones, parking attendants and security.
- Never leave an I.D. tag on your key ring. If lost or stolen a thief may find you, your car or your house.
- Always report any suspicious activities to parking attendants, security or call the police. If you feel you are being followed walk or run quickly to a lighted store or where crowds of people can offer help. Know where to go for help—security guard, police station, fire house, grocery store, etc. Do not go home.

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Because Each Case Is Personal

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