



# Crime Prevention Tips

ARAPAHOE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
13101 E. Broncos Parkway, Centennial, CO 80112  
J. Grayson Robinson, SHERIFF

Community  
Resource  
Unit

Committed to quality service with an emphasis on integrity,  
professionalism and community spirit.

## *Help prevent Auto Theft in Winter*

Auto theft is a crime of opportunity. One of the biggest problems facing the Sheriff's Office is "puffers". What are puffers? Puffers are cars left running and unattended. Many times in the winter, a person will leave their car running outside their residence for it to warm up. Some Puffers are cars left out side of stores or businesses with the intention of keeping the car warm in the cold weather. After all, you're only going to be inside for a minute, right? Well, a minute is all a car thief needs. Don't become a statistic. The good news is, as with many crimes of opportunity, there are things you can do to decrease your chance of becoming a victim.

- Don't leave your car running unattended. (Did you know that it is illegal in the state of Colorado to leave your keys in a running vehicle? CRS 42-4-1206).
- Always close and secure your garage door. (No matter the time of day. Thieves are always looking for the split second they need to take something you worked hard for).
- Do not leave keys in your vehicle. (Even if you lock your car it only takes a second for a car thief to break the window and make off with your car).
- Remove your valuables from your vehicle when you're not in it. (This is most important when shopping at a mall or grocery store).
- Always lock your doors. (A car thief will look for the cars that aren't locked first because those are the easiest targets).
- Report all suspicious persons and activities to the Sheriff's Office immediately.

Help reduce your chances of becoming the victim of Auto Theft by following these simple safety suggestions. Remember; minimize the opportunity and the risk and you may prevent the crime completely. If you have any questions, call Deputy Amir Stephen at (720) 874-3752 or e-mail at [astephen@co.arapahoe.co.us](mailto:astephen@co.arapahoe.co.us)

**To report a crime, call the  
Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office at  
(303)-795-4711 or 911 for emergencies**