



February
2016

THE TOWN WATCH

Lakewood Village TX Neighborhood Watch



GAS STATION THEFT PREVENTION

Keep a keen eye on this emerging crime trend.

Recently, there has been increased media coverage across the country regarding theft at gas stations. The unique setting allows thieves to catch their victims by complete surprise — when they are pumping gas or paying their tab inside the station. Most of the time, gas station customers leave their car doors unlocked and items like purses and wallets are often left in plain view. A thief is able to drive up next to the victim's car, open an unlocked door, and grab any valuables within reach. Then, the thief quickly drives off. It happens in a matter of seconds.

But these thefts can be easily prevented if the appropriate precautions are taken. Review the following tips to prevent yourself from becoming a victim of theft at area gas stations or when traveling.

- Pick stations that are well-lit and have video surveillance cameras at the pump.
- Always remove your keys and lock the doors while you are pumping gas.
- Keep valuables out of plain view in your vehicle and lock the doors even if you are going inside for a moment.
- Pay attention to your surroundings.
- Don't let your cell phone distract you

To report suspicious activity, call Denton County Sheriff's Office (940) 349-1600

TAKE TIME NOW TO PREPARE BEFORE SPRING STORMS ARRIVE

Peak tornado season in the southern states is March through May and in the northern states, it is late spring through early summer. Although here in North Texas, it has most recently been very evident that tornados can occur any time of the year and at any time of day.

Before the spring storm season is upon us you can be better prepared by creating for your own household disaster supplies kit. This kit is simply a collection of basic items your household may need in the event of an emergency.

Try to assemble your kit well in advance of an emergency. You may have to evacuate at a moment's notice and take essentials with you. You will probably not have time to search for the supplies you need or shop for them.

You may need to survive on your own after an emergency. This means having your own food, water and other supplies in sufficient quantity to last for at least 72 hours. Local officials and relief workers will be on the scene after a disaster but they cannot reach everyone immediately. You could get help in hours or it might take days.

Additionally, basic services such as electricity, gas, water, sewage treatment and telephones may be cut off for days or even a week, or longer. Your supplies kit should contain items to help you manage during these outages.

Tornados are nature's most violent storms. Spawned from powerful thunderstorms, tornados can cause fatalities and devastate a neighborhood in seconds. You won't regret taking the time to prepare for any emergency.



February
29

TIPS TO PREVENT AUTO THEFT

A few common sense steps can help you reduce becoming a victim of auto theft:

- Never leave your car running and unattended, even to dash into a business
- Never leave your keys in the car or ignition, even inside a locked garage
- Always roll up your windows and lock the car, even if it is in front of your home
- Never leave valuables in plain view, even if your car is locked. Put them in the trunk out of sight.
- Always park in a high-traffic, well-lighted area, if possible
- Install a mechanical device that locks to the steering wheel, column, or brake pedal to prevent the wheel from being turned more than a few degrees. Commonly called clubs, collars, or J-bars, these devices can act as a highly visible physical deterrent if installed properly
- Investigate the purchase of an auto alarm system if you live in a high-theft area or drive a theft-prone vehicle. Display an alarm decal near the door handle.
- If you park in a fee garage, take the pay-ticket with you. It's the thief's ticket out of the garage, too.
- If you use valet parking, leave just the ignition key with the attendant. Make sure no identifying information is attached to the key. Do the same when you take your car for repairs
- Carry your drivers' license, registration, and insurance card with you. Don't leave personal identification documents or credit cards in your vehicle
- Copy your license plate and vehicle identification (VIN) numbers on a card and keep them on you with your driver's license. If your vehicle is stolen, police will need this information promptly.