

- To avoid other thefts that sometimes follow carjackings, separate your car keys from your house and office keys.
- If house keys are taken, change your locks immediately.
- Do not leave your garage door opener in your car. If your garage door opener remote is stolen, change the security setting immediately.
- Don't allow your car to run out of gas.

## Certain actions will help keep you safe.

- If someone demands your car keys, don't resist. Nothing is more valuable than your life.
- If someone asks for assistance, do not get out of your car. Notify police immediately.
- If someone approaches your car, turn on your headlights and honk your horn.
- If in serious danger you may consider running a stop sign or red light **if, in your judgement, you will not endanger others.**
- If possible, make mental notes of physical descriptions and direction of escape.
- Have a pen and notebook available to write down descriptions of suspects for the police.
- Always carry a small flashlight.
- Consider carrying a pocket alarm. The alarm emits a high-pitched, very loud, siren-like sound that often sends attackers running.
- Consider getting an alarm system for your car.
- Consider carrying a cell phone.

*Remember, if you become a victim of carjacking, comply with the demands of the carjacker(s) immediately. Give them your car keys if necessary. Resisting may place you in greater danger and increase the risk of personal harm.*

(Road Rage information was provided by the National Crime Prevention Council.

Some of the carjacking information was excerpted from a brochure by the New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety, Division of Highway Traffic Safety, and the Maryland State Police.)

# KEYS TO DRIVING SAFE



*Prevention Information  
for dealing with*

*Carjacking &  
Road Rage*



**Mesa Police Department**  
**(480) 644-2300**  
[www.mesaaz.gov/police](http://www.mesaaz.gov/police)

# ROAD RAGE

People are losing their lives on the highway every day because of "road rage." A majority of drivers get angry when someone cuts them off or tailgates them. About 70 percent of drivers get angry at slow drivers. Violent incidents on the roads recorded by police have increased 51 percent over five years.

- Don't allow someone to draw you into a test of wills on the highway. If someone is tailgating you, pull into the slow lane and let them pass.
- Don't tailgate others or cut them off in traffic.
- Don't drive in the passing lane.
- Don't take traffic problems personally.
- Avoid eye contact with an aggressive driver.
- Don't make obscene gestures. Use your horn sparingly, as a warning, not an outburst.
- Reduce stress by allowing ample time for your trip and creating a relaxing environment in your car.
- Driving is a cooperative activity. If you're aggressive, you may find other drivers trying to slow you down or get in your way.

If you witness aggressive driving, stay out of the way and contact authorities when you can. Consider carrying a cellular phone in your car to contact police in the event of an encounter with an aggressive driver.



# CARJACKING

*...is the term for the crime of a car being taken from a person either by force or threat of force.*

## AWARENESS

### Be aware of your surroundings.

- Plan ahead. Be prepared.
- Know your route. Use well-lighted and well-traveled roads.
- Have an alternate route in mind in case of problems.
- Let someone know the route you will take and when you plan to arrive.
- Don't travel alone if at all possible.
- Walk with a purpose. Don't walk aimlessly towards your car.
- Be aware of people who may be following you to your car.
- Be aware of "Bump and Rob" techniques. If you are bumped by another car, don't get out of your car. Write down the license plate number and drive to the nearest populated place and call police.
- Remember, the law requires anyone involved in an accident to stop, render aid, and identify themselves. You must report the accident.
- Recognize that carjacking can occur anytime, anywhere, in any neighborhood.
- Be aware that any car may be the target of carjackers...not just expensive, high-profile cars.

## ALERTNESS

### Be alert to potential dangers.

- Be alert to any activity near your car.
- Be alert to people loitering in your parking area.
- Be suspicious of people approaching your car

asking for directions, change, or giving out flyers.

- Always give your car a quick inspection for tampering. If you think someone has tampered with your car, don't enter.
- Check door handles, locks, and back seat before entering.
- Always keep valuables out of view if you must travel with them in the car.
- When stopping in traffic, leave enough distance between your car the one in front of you so you can pull away quickly if necessary.
- Be alert to danger when approaching drive-up automated teller machines (ATMs).
- Avoid using ATMs at night, especially if you see people loitering nearby.

## AVOIDANCE

### Be cautious and avoid certain situations.

- Don't drive without first locking your doors and closing your windows.
- Never leave keys in the ignition, or the car running for any reason.
- Avoid parking in secluded, poorly lighted areas, especially at night.
- Don't walk to your car alone.
- Remember that both men and women are vulnerable to carjacking. Walk in pairs whenever possible.
- Don't stand by your locked car looking for your keys. Have your keys out, ready to unlock and enter the car without delay.
- Drive to a safe public place and call the police if you think someone is following you.
- Don't get out of your car if you see suspicious people. If you are in doubt or are approached, drive away.

