



PUBLIC INFORMATION DIVISION
1200 Clark Ave.
St. Louis, Missouri 63103
(314) 444-5603

NEWS RELEASE

METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Service, Integrity, Leadership, and Fair Treatment to All

December 6, 2010

Metropolitan Police Offer Advice to Prevent Winter Auto Theft
Citizens Reminded Not to Leave Unattended Vehicles Idling

With the cold weather upon the St. Louis area, the Metropolitan Police Department, City of St. Louis (“the department”) is reminding St. Louis citizens not to leave their cars unattended and idling. When temperatures get colder, many people start their vehicles and then go back inside their homes for a few minutes while the vehicles “warm up.” Those citizens are making themselves a prime target for thieves.

Auto theft is often a crime of opportunity for thieves. Those citizens who leave their vehicles running while they go back inside to avoid the cold temperatures, create an easy opportunity for thieves to attack.

Police are also reminding the public that an idling, unattended vehicle is a violation of city ordinances. Vehicles found running idle can be ticketed and owners are subject to a fine.

While it may create a minor inconvenience, taking the time to sit in your vehicle while it is warming up may ultimately avoid a much more major situation, including having your vehicle stolen.

###