

Crime Prevention and Safety Tips

RANCHO VIEJO POLICE DEPARTMENT



EMERGENCY

911

POLICE – FIRE – MEDICAL

NON EMERGENCY

(956) 350-9000

H.E.A.T



Help End Auto Theft

HEAT Program

HEAT! stands for, "Help End Auto Theft." This is a program where vehicle owners place a numbered decal on their vehicle which gives any police officer permission to stop that vehicle between the hours of 1:00 AM and 5:00 AM. There is no cost for this program. To learn more about the HEAT program, please click here to visit the [HEAT page](#).

[https://records.txdps.state.tx.us/DPS WEB/Heat/index.aspx](https://records.txdps.state.tx.us/DPS_WEB/Heat/index.aspx)

CRIME PREVENTION SAFETY TIPS

WHEN YOU'RE AT HOME:

- Replace or rekey all locks when you move into a new home or apartment.
- Install 1" case hardened steel deadbolt locks on all exterior doors.
- Keep windows and doors locked at all times.
- Install a 190-degree door viewer or door scope in your front door. Look before opening your door to anyone.
- Require Identification from all repair persons or public service individuals without opening the door.
- Hang up on frightening or obscene calls. Invest in an answer machine and screen your calls.
- On your answer machine message, never say you're not at home. Just say you're not by the phone.
- If a prowler enters your home, GET OUT!! Go to a neighbor and call the police.
- If you come home and you think someone is in your home, DO NOT ENTER!! Go to a neighbor and call the police.

WHEN YOU'RE WALKING:

- Always be aware of your surroundings, and the people who are around you.
- Avoid walking alone; either walk with someone, or walk in areas where others are near.
- Stay in well lighted areas,
- Walk facing traffic.
- **NEVER HITCHHIKE OR ACCEPT RIDES FROM STRANGERS!!**
- If the driver of a car stops and harasses you, walk in the opposite direction.
- If you are walking to your car in a parking lot, and anything makes you feel uncomfortable, **TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS**, go back in the store. Get someone to walk with you to your car.
- When you approach your car, check the back seat and under the car.
- Have your keys in your hand. Enter the car, lock the doors, and drive away.
- **DO NOT SIT IN THE CAR IN THE PARKING LOT AND CHECK YOUR PACKAGES!!!**
- If you have a cell phone, carry it with you when walking or driving and be prepared to use it to call for help. Know what numbers to call and be prepared to give your exact location to the emergency operator.

WHEN YOU'RE DRIVING:

- Never pick up hitchhikers.
- Keep the car doors locked and the windows rolled up at all times.
- Keep your car properly maintained and be sure you have enough fuel.
- Leave enough space from the car in front of you to maneuver.
- Look for pedestrians, many carjackers approach on foot.
- Learn your area, especially your neighborhood.
- If you feel you are being followed, **DO NOT GO HOME!!** Go to an open business, or a Police Station or Fire Station to get help.
- If you are bumped in the rear, **DO NOT GET OUT OF THE CAR!!** Go to an open business, or a Police Station or Fire Station and call the Police.
- Try to park your car in well lighted areas, as close to the door as possible.
- Avoid drive through ATM's at night after the banks are closed.
- If your car breaks down, open the hood, turn on the flashers, and get back in the car and lock the doors. If someone stops to help, crack your window and ask them to phone for help.
- If you get a flat, drive on the rim to an open business to get help.
- A cellular phone is an excellent security investment.
- Carry and be prepared to use your cell phone.

AT THE WORK PLACE:

- Never leave valuables or keys lying about on your desktop.
- Engrave all personal items with your Texas Drivers License Number.
- Lock up all valuables before leaving your work area.
- If you notice anything suspicious: persons, vehicles, or objects; always notify your supervisor, and security personnel.
- If you work late, move your vehicle close to the entrance before dark, and make sure all exterior doors and windows are closed and locked.
- Always try to leave the building with co-workers, and have your car keys in your hand ready to use.
- Get to know your co-workers, and look out for each other.
- Always let someone know where you'll be in case of an accident or confrontation with a hostile client.
- Insist on identification for repair persons who come to your work place, and stay extra alert while they are there.
- Report all potentially violent encounters with, or threats from co-workers to your supervisor.

National Threat Level



http://www.dhs.gov/files/programs/Copy_of_press_release_0046.shtm