



November 2004

**Minnesota Crime Prevention Association's
Tips of the Month**

THEFT FROM PERSON PREVENTION TIPS

Don't make it easy for a thief to take your belongings:

- ✍ Keep your valuable items secured at all times. While at your work place, please lock your purse up.
- ✍ Don't set your purse on the floor in restrooms, theaters, restaurants, or other public areas. Don't leave your purse open or unattended in a shopping cart. Front packs are great way to secure items while shopping.
- ✍ Watch for thieves that may try to distract you while shopping. Don't turn your back on your belongings.
- ✍ Carry your keys in your coat pocket.
- ✍ A woman should carry her handbag next to her body with the flap or clasp toward her. A man should carry his wallet in an inside or front pocket.

DO NOT LEAVE ANY VALUABLES IN THE CAR

- ? Common items taken include car stereos, CDs, cellular phones, radar detectors, expensive sunglasses, briefcases or gym bags, "laptops," tools, purses, checkbooks, credit cards, garage door openers and even small amounts of change.
- ? Keep your valuables in one bag so they can be easily brought with you.
- ? Lock your car.
- ? If you can afford a car alarm system, get one and use it.
- ? Park under a street light or where the car may easily be seen.
- ? Police Patrol alone will not prevent this crime. Practice crime prevention strategies above to minimize your chances of being a victim.
- ? Call 911 to report suspicious people or activities. Trust your instincts. 911 is the best number to call for Police, Fire and Ambulance Services. Don't worry about placing a 911 call, as the dispatchers will prioritize incoming calls based on level of emergency.
- ? Contact your local law enforcement agency to set up a Neighborhood Watch group in your area.