



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**City of Duluth Police Department**

411 West First Street, Duluth, Minnesota 55802  
218-730-5400 | [www.duluthmn.gov](http://www.duluthmn.gov) | Gordon Ramsay, Chief of Police

For more information contact Jim Hansen, Public Information Officer 218-390-2232



**DATE: 06/06/2012**

**NATURE OF INCIDENT: Vehicle Prowl Prevention**

**CASE NO.:**

**INCIDENT DATE :06/06/2012**

**INCIDENT TIME:**

**INCIDENT LOCATION: Duluth, MN**

**SUBJECT: Police Alert Citizens to Increase in Vehicle Prowls**

**BY: DPD Public Information Officer Jim Hansen (218) 390-2232**

Duluth Police have seen an increase in vehicle prowls/thefts from vehicles. As the weather gets warmer, favorite areas targeted by vehicle prowlers are parking areas associated with beaches, trails, golf courses, and other recreational sites. Police want to remind citizens to lock their vehicles, remove valuables, and report any suspicious activity to 9-1-1.

Vehicle prowls are crimes of opportunity and can occur anywhere, at any time of the day or night. A vehicle prowler makes a split second decision to break into a vehicle based on their observation or perception that there are valuables in the vehicle making it worth the risk. A vehicle prowler can be completed in less than one minute. Most (not all) neighborhood vehicle prowls occur between the hours of 10:00 PM and 5:00 AM. Vehicle prowls associated with recreational areas tend to occur in the late afternoon and early evening. Vehicles are usually entered through an unlocked door or by breaking a window.

### **Vehicle Prowl Prevention**

Vehicle prowls are one of the easiest crimes to reduce with increased awareness. The following preventative measures will reduce the chances of being the target of a vehicle prowler:

- **First and foremost, NEVER leave valuables including bags, purses, wallets, briefcases, laptops, cell phones, etc. in your vehicle.** Keep the interior clean and don't leave anything that may appear valuable (box for I-phone, envelope from bank, etc.).
- Don't store or leave credit cards, identification, or personal information in your glove box or anywhere in your car. Remove garage door openers, key cards, and house or work keys from the car so the car prowler cannot gain access to your home.
- If you must leave valuables in your car, place them in the trunk before you get to your destination.
- Before leaving your parked car, roll up the windows, remove the keys, lock the door, and set the alarm (if you have one).
- Try to park in busy, well lit areas. Avoid parking near anything that limits visibility like dumpsters, large vans or trucks.
- Report any suspicious activity to the police. One of the most important things you can do is

report all suspicious activity to 9-1-1 and encourage your neighbors to do the same.

If your car is broken into or there is a vehicle prowling in progress, call 9-1-1. With your help, vehicle prowls will go down and police have a better chance of catching those responsible.

