

Safety and Security Committee

November 26, 2019

Auto Theft Prevention Tips

from the Wilde Lake Newsletter- Courtesy of the Howard County Police Department

As we have had many auto thefts and thefts from within our autos, here are a few tips to follow:

- **Lock your car.** (Day and night, at home, at work, at school, etc.)
- **Park** in well-lit areas and parking lots.
- **Never**, leave your car running and unattended, even in your own driveway.
- If you have a garage, park in it. Close and lock the garage door.
- Don't hide spare keys in your vehicle.
- **Always** activate the car alarm when the vehicle is not in use.
- Think about getting a GPS tracking device for your vehicle if it isn't equipped so law enforcement can track your vehicle if it is stolen.
- **Enroll** in "Maryland Watch Your Car Program". This identifies your vehicle to police through window and sticker decals. Police can then stop your vehicle without probable cause and identify the driver if the car is out between 1 and 5 am.
- **VIN Etching.** Have the vehicle identification number (VIN) etched onto your windows to deter theft and to assist the police return your car to the rightful owner.
- **Consider** a steering wheel lock or kill switch for your vehicle.
Howard County Auto Theft Protection Information: 410-313-4759
- **Always** report suspicious subjects and activity immediately to the HCPD by calling 911

Winter Fire Safety

We attended the

Howard County LEPC Quarterly Meeting

November 21, 2019

Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue Services

Brad Tanner

- There are 13 fire and rescue stations with 900 career and volunteer workers.
- From 2013 - 2018 there has been an 18% increase in fire incidents.
- The busiest day is Friday.

Causes of Fires

- Unmaintained Chimneys
- Improper ash disposal from a fireplace
- Candles
- Children playing with matches
- Space heaters

- Unattended cooking
- Overloaded sockets
- An opened oven used for heating
- Placing a frozen turkey in a fryer
- Pot handles hanging over the stove
- Too many decorations/fixtures plugged into the same outlet
- Christmas trees that are not kept watered
- Indoor extension cords not approved for outdoor use, used for outdoor decorations
- Keep generators outside, and not in a garage, shed, house, or next to your neighbor's house.

Safety Tips During a Fire

- Get out and stay out. Leave all your possessions
- Close your door before you doze. This minimizes smoke infiltration and reduces the amount of oxygen to the fire.
- Have 2 exit plans for every room.
- Designate a meet-up spot with your family that is located away from the house.
- Newly constructed buildings/homes must have sprinkler systems installed.

Community Outreach

Free classes offered to the community are:

- Fire and Fall Prevention - for aging residents to discuss fire and fall prevention in your home. This includes an individual home safety visit.
- Home Safety Visits - a one-on-one home visit for aging residents to check/install a new 10-year approved lithium battery smoke alarm and to check and review fall prevention safety in your home.
- Safe Kids - properly install children's car seats
- Stop the Bleed Program - teaches how to identify and control life-threatening bleeding.
- *Narcotics Training
- *Hands-Only CPR and AED Training - trains you how to use compressions when a person's heart stops. The AED can help increase the person's chance of survival.

The Good Samaritan Law protects you when performing these life-saving programs.

Adopt-a-Hydrant - volunteer to keep a hydrant easily accessible from the snow for the fire fighters by clearing a 3-foot perimeter around the hydrant and clearing a path from the hydrant to the street.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving!