

When You Park Your Car

- **Keep your doors locked and windows rolled up, and take your keys with you.** Don't make it easy for thieves to steal your car or the items in it.
- **Remove valuable items from your car or keep them out of plain site** so thieves won't be tempted to break in and steal them.
- **Park your car in a well-lit, well-traveled area.**
- **Avoid parking next to large vehicles or any objects** (dumpsters, large trees or shrubbery, etc.) that someone could easily hide behind.

If You Have a Breakdown

If you're in an accident or your car breaks down, safety should be your first concern. Getting out of the car at a busy intersection or on a highway to change a tire or check damage from a fender bender is probably one of the worst things you can do. The Insurance Information Institute (I.I.I.) recommends the following precautions when your car breaks down:

- Never get out of the vehicle to make a repair or examine the damage on a busy highway. Get the vehicle to a safe place before getting out. If you've been involved in an accident, motion the other driver to pull up to a safe spot ahead.
- If you can't drive the vehicle, it may be safer to stay in the vehicle and wait for help or use a cell phone to summon help. Under most circumstances standing outside the vehicle in the flow of traffic is a bad idea.
- Carry flares or triangles to use to mark your location once you get to the side of the road. Marking your vehicle's location to give other drivers advance warning can be critical. Remember to put on your hazard lights!
- In the case of a blowout or a flat tire, move the vehicle to a safer place before attempting a repair—even if it means destroying the wheel getting there. The cost of a tire, rim or wheel is minor compared to endangering your safety.