



Parking Lot Safety Tips

We want you to be safe when you are at school, work or even when you are shopping. It starts with being aware of what's going on around you when walking to and from your car. Use these tips to stay safe:

Stay Alert

- Be on the alert for anyone or anything that seems unusual or suspicious. ***If you see something, say something!***
- It's easy to be distracted by your phone so avoid texting or talking on the phone when walking in a parking lot. Wait until you're safely inside before texting or making a call.
- Keep your phone in easy reach just in case it becomes necessary to call 911. If calling 911, immediately tell the 911 Operator your location, in case you get disconnected.
- Look around and be aware of the cars, vans, and trucks parked in the lot. Don't park between vehicles taller than your vehicle; this prevents a clear line of sight for when you are getting in or out of your car.

Go to the Light

- Walk in a well-lit area after dark. Stay away from shrubs, trees, or other large objects- these make perfect hiding spots.

Be Wary of Strangers

- Keep an eye out for people sitting in vehicles or lurking between them.
- If there is suspicious activity, take immediate action by getting to a well-populated area and call the police or security.
- If someone approaches you when you are in our vehicle, lock your doors and drive away. Never open your door or roll down your window to a stranger.
- Don't be afraid to yell, scream for help or cause a scene if a stranger comes up to you or if you feel you are in danger.

Walk Smart

- Have your keys in your hand and ready to open your car.
- Walk quickly and with your head up. Look around. Don't let yourself be preoccupied or fumble with books, bags or your phone.
- Remove your headphones or earbuds while walking through a parking lot. Be aware of noises and movements.
- If you are nervous about walking to your car alone, contact security, an adult or ask a friend to escort you.
- When walking to and from your car or getting off the school bus, avoid darting between parked vehicles.

Stay in View of Cameras

- Many parking lots, including those at school, have cameras located at strategic points. Know where these are located and stay within the camera's field of view.

Lock It Up

- As soon as you get in your car, lock your doors and start the engine immediately.
- When leaving your car, lock it up.
- Hide valuables such as laptops, cell phones, and handbags out of sight.