



Internationally Accredited



# ***FLORISSANT POLICE***

## **WINTER WARNING**

### **YOUR WARM CAR COULD END UP BEING HOT!**

During a recent 24 hour period, thieves stole, or attempted to steal, five (5) vehicles in Florissant. Four of the five vehicles had been left unattended while warming up, with the keys in the ignition. In one instance, the owner started their car, leaving their keys in the ignition, and locked the doors. A suspect “punched” the door lock with a small screwdriver and drove off with the vehicle.

Witnesses had observed a suspicious SUV driving around the neighborhood, occupied by several young males near one of the stolen autos but did not notify the police department of the suspicious activity. Apparently, the vehicle was driving around neighborhoods looking for cars left unattended while warming up. When they found a car warming up one of the suspects got out and took the auto.

Many autos are now equipped with a touch pad the owner can use to unlock their doors without a key. Some owners, especially during cold weather, will start the car then lock their doors assuming they are safe from their car being stolen while it warms up. A thief can defeat the key pad by simply using a screwdriver to “punch” the door lock, as happened in one of these instances, allowing access to a running vehicle with the keys.

Most auto manufactures offer an optional remote starting device that stalls the engine if someone attempts to steal the auto without the keys in the ignition. When a suspect puts their foot on the brake to shift the car into the drive mode the engine will stop running and will not start. Similar aftermarket remote starting devices are also available.

*Don't leave your auto unattended while it's warming up unless you have a remote starting device that will disable the vehicle if someone attempts to steal it while the engine is running.*