



HIJACKING AND VEHICLE SAFETY

WHAT IS HIJACKING?

Hijacking is the violent theft of a motor vehicle from its owner or driver, and is not classified as a "specific crime".

The actual offence is robbery and may include aggravated circumstances.

Robbery is defined as "the unlawful and intentional violent removal and appropriation of moveable corporeal property belonging to another person, where force or the threat of force is used."



CHARACTERISTICS OF HIJACKINGS

- ✎ All hijackings occur unexpectedly.
- ✎ Most hijackings are planned.
- ✎ Provocation is not a prerequisite for a hijacking.
- ✎ Hijackings occur at anytime, day or night.
- ✎ Hijackings can happen anywhere, in urban or rural areas.
- ✎ Any vehicle can be targeted, depending on the demand for it.



COMMON HIJACKING SITUATIONS

You could be hijacked –

- ✎ while stationary on freeway on or off ramps;
- ✎ while loading goods at home or at work;
- ✎ while loading passengers;
- ✎ while stationary on the side of the road (talking on cellphone, etc);
- ✎ while stationary in a parking area;
- ✎ while stationary at stop signs or traffic lights;
- ✎ being forced off the road or bumped by another vehicle;
- ✎ by impersonators (SAPS or TMPD);
- ✎ at home, at your gates or in your driveway; and/or
- ✎ by ambush.



HIJACKING PREVENTION

- When approaching your vehicle, have your car keys ready and lock all doors immediately once you are inside your vehicle.
- Keep your car and house keys on separate key chains.
- Make sure you are not being followed.
- When approaching a traffic light at night or in secluded areas, reduce speed to avoid having to bring your vehicle to a complete stop. Turn the radio down and observe all approach angles to your vehicle. If a suspicious person approaches – and it is safe for you to do so – drive away.
- Keep your vehicle in first gear when stationary – this will allow for a quick getaway in the case of an emergency.
- Maintain sufficient escape space between vehicles when stationary.
- If you cannot afford to have "safety film" fitted to your vehicle's windows, always leave an opening of ± 5 cm from the top. (This makes the glass more flexible and prevents it from shattering on impact.)
- Do not leave valuable items, like handbags, cellphones or laptops on the passenger or back seat – lock these items in the boot.
- Kids and car safety seats: Put the child in the car safety seat → get into the car → lock all the doors → finish buckling up the child. When trying to buckle up children and you are bent over into the car, it is impossible to see what is going on around you!
- When driving alone, let a family member or friend know the route you are taking and the expected time of arrival at your destination.

