

PARKING LOT SAFETY TIPS

As we enter in to the holiday season our families and friends will be getting out to various social events and to do some shopping at the mall or stores in your town. Since we care about you (our clients and business partners) and your families the following is provided to help you all through this busy time of the year.

Driving in Reverse is a Dangerous Task

Driving in the reverse gear is one of the most dangerous driving maneuvers new and experienced drivers can make.

The following tips should help you when driving in reverse:

- Try avoiding backing up, if possible. You might want to consider making a legal U-turn, or driving around the block to come back to the parking spot or address you were looking for.
- Don't distract yourself when backing up and that means no talking on a cell phone, texting a friend or engaging in conversation with another passenger. You need to keep focused on the driving, especially in a reverse maneuver.
- Remember when driving in reverse at night, there are added visibility problems. When driving in reverse, the traffic behind you only sees your back up and brake lights, which are not as bright as your headlights.
- As part of regular vehicle maintenance, always check to see that your back up and brake lights are in working order. Actually, you should check all your lights at least once a week.
- In shopping malls or supermarket parking areas, back out of a parking space very slowly as many times other cars parked next to you will obstruct your view. And be especially aware of runaway shopping carts in supermarket parking lots.



Protect yourself in the parking lot:

The best ways to protect yourself and others in a parking lot is to be aware of everything moving for 360 degrees (all the way) around your car. Be aware that careless drivers, speeding vehicles and pedestrians in parking lots can be a prime target for thieves, carjackers and vandals. Below are some general parking lot safety tips:

- Watch for cars cutting diagonally across lots; drive slowly and use your turn signals.
- When backing out of a parking lot space, be aware of waiting cars, others who are backing out at the same time and motorists speeding through lanes.
- Display proper body language that shows that you are aware of any suspicious situations and people.
- Beware when at the Post Office. Post office parking lots have the highest incidents of accidents due to frequent customer turnover.

- Don't park between spots, especially in busy lots. You may only gain retribution from angry fellow shoppers.
- Avoid parking close to large vehicles if possible, as it will decrease your ability to see the area around you.
- Always hide your valuables and do not leave personal information displayed in your vehicle.
- Park in well-lit areas. If the lot is inadequately lit, let the management know.
- Get in the habit of rolling up your car windows and locking your car doors.
- Always have your keys ready when approaching your car and check the back seat and under the car before getting in.
- Remember where you parked the car.
- Scan the area for suspicious persons, to be sure you are not being followed.
- If there is a large truck or van parked next to you, you can enter your car from the passenger side.
- Look around your car before getting in, make sure no one is lurking around.
- Once you are in the car, lock your doors and leave! Do not sit in the car doing other things.

Don't put yourself at risk. Take all the necessary precautions to be safe in parking lot areas.
Safety First, Safety Always!