

SALT LAKE COUNTY SAFETY MATTERS

THINK TWICE ABOUT IDLING YOUR VEHICLE

In 2013, there were 5,372 vehicles reported stolen in the state of Utah. The unfortunate part about this statistic is a large majority of these cases could have been prevented. Perhaps one of the most common calls to Law Enforcement in the winter months come from citizen who left their vehicles running while they stepped away for only a second. Here are some reasons you should think twice about leaving your vehicle unattended and running...

- **THE RISK IS NOT WORTH THE REWARD**

There is no doubt sitting in an ice cold car in the morning can be miserable, but imagine the even more daunting feeling of walking back to your vehicle and finding it GONE!

- **IT CONTRIBUTES TO BAD AIR QUALITY**

In the winter months, when air quality is already questionable at best, the last thing we need in Salt Lake County is 500,000+ vehicles to be left running every morning.

- **IT WILL ONLY BE THE START OF YOUR TROUBLES**

Think about your vehicle. What's inside? Bank statements, bills, purses, etc.. Once your car has been stolen, you've left yourself exposed to identity theft. In addition, good luck filing an insurance claim, as many insurances companies won't cover stolen vehicles where the keys were left inside while the vehicle was running.

- **MOST IMPORTANTLY: IT'S THE LAW**

Utah State Code 41-6a-1403 prohibits leaving vehicles running while unattended. Most cities have ordinances citing the same violation of the law. If your car isn't stolen, it could just as easily be ticketed.

This winter, please make sure you are not leaving yourself open to an opportunistic car thief. You may get lucky and step out to warm vehicle; but it's also just as possible you could walk out to a citation or a missing vehicle.

