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Law prohibits running vehicles

Written by Constable Rob Felske

Now that winter has arrived, and it is cold outside, a lot of citizens leave their car running while they run errands. We have all seen those that leave their car running while getting the morning coffee or paper. It only takes seconds for someone to steal your unattended, running car. Even if you are inside the store, with an eye on your running car, there would be little you could do to prevent its theft: Action (the theft) is faster than reaction (whatever you might do to attempt to stop the theft).

There are numerous vehicle thefts in Halton, and this offence statistically increases in the Winter due to this issue of running, unattended cars. Some people that own older vehicles

may think their old car won't be stolen. Remember that most cars are stolen to facilitate other, more serious crimes such as robberies and break and enters and new expensive cars are not required for this. The person that will steal your running car, will not pull over for police when your vehicle is spotted and thus a dangerous pursuit situation may arise, putting the lives of pursuing officers at risk.

To deter individuals from leaving their cars running while unattended, several laws are in place to prohibit this activity. There is a law that prohibits a vehicle to be left unattended while running, as well as a by-law that prohibits keys being left in a motor vehicle while it is unattended (\$55).

Please help prevent serious crime and do not leave your car unattended and running.



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