Driving Safely When You are Alone

It is nice to have a family member or friend in the car while driving, not only for companionship, but also for safety. However, there may be times when you will be driving alone and should know how to do so safely. Here are some tips to help out.

Tips for Driving Solo

- Be ready before you reach your vehicle. Have your keys in your hand when you are walking to your car. If you are in an unsafe area, pre-dial 9-1-1 on your cell phone before walking to your car.
- If you will be leaving after dark, park in an area that is well lit and always lock your vehicle every time you get out.
- If you have been followed to your car or suspect that someone is hiding in or near it, quickly move away and get help immediately.

Trust your instincts!

Look around and under your car when you return to it. Check for flat tires, which may indicate that someone tampered with your vehicle. Also look inside all the windows to make sure that no one has gained entry into your car and is hiding in the backseat. If you notice anything suspicious, go find help immediately.

Lock your car doors once you are inside and keep the windows up whenever possible. Also be alert for things going on around you when you are stopped at traffic lights.

If you think that you are being followed, do not drive home. Instead, go to the nearest safe, well-lit place and call 9-1-1.

If you are rear-ended, do not get out of your car unless you are in a safe, public area. A thief may bump you on purpose, wait for you to get out of your car and then rob you. If you are on an isolated road and get bumped, call 9-1-1 immediately. If you do not have a cell phone, continue driving to a public area where you know others are present. If the accident is legitimate, the driver who hit you should follow to discuss the accident.

Notify your family and friends where you are going and when you are expected to arrive. In the event that you are not available or did not arrive when expected, they will know to look for you and to contact the police for assistance.

Safety First

If you are walking to your car and notice someone who looks suspicious, hold down the panic button on your car remote to signal trouble. This may deter the person because of the loud noise and attention that you are making.

If you are inside of your vehicle and sense trouble, honk your horn repeatedly to get others’ attention.

Call us today to learn more about all of our risk management and insurance solutions for your auto, home and life.