

**Syracuse City Police Department  
Neighborhood Watch Groups of Syracuse**

**Mobile Phone Safety Tips**



**What Can I Do To Protect My Mobile Phone From Theft?**

- Do not leave your mobile phone unattended or in open view in public places. Even if your phone is located close at hand, a bold thief may be willing to grab it.
- Don't leave your mobile phone on display in an unattended car. If you need to leave your mobile phone in your vehicle lock it in the glove compartment or trunk.
- Don't walk down the street talking or texting unaware of your surroundings. Thieves love this because it makes you an easy target.
- Do not give your phone to strangers who ask to borrow it.

**How Can I Prevent A Thief From Using My Mobile Phone And What Can I Do To Increase The Chances Of Recovering It?**

- Password protect your mobile phone: Use the security lock code or PIN feature to lock your mobile phone. This makes it difficult for others to access your personal information.
- Keep a record of your mobile phone's make, model, and serial number as well as any distinguishing features. In the event your phone is stolen this information and a picture will help provide an accurate and complete description to police.
- Keep a record of your mobile phone's "Electronic Serial Number (ESN)"
- Don't Delay: Report the theft of your mobile phone to the police immediately.
- If your phone is stolen, inform your service provider so they can block any unauthorized calls.
- Activate the Global Positioning System (GPS) tracking system on your phone or other electronic devices. If the device does not have a GPS tracking system, there is aftermarket software you can buy or download. Tracking devices often lead to your stolen device being recovered.
- Some service providers use technology that allows them to add a stolen phone to a blacklist. Once blacklisted the stolen phone is no longer able to access the service provider's network.
- Be a Good Witness: If you see the suspect, use caution but try to get a good description, any vehicles (license number, color, and model) and the last known direction of travel.

**Additional Information:**

- Consider the type of information you store on your mobile phone. If stolen, it's not difficult for thieves to pull out private information before clearing the memory and reselling the device. If the information on your mobile phone could create a big problem if it fell into the hands of someone else, don't store it there. While you can't guarantee your mobile phone will never be stolen you can prevent thieves from accessing private information.