

CAR JACKING INFORMATION

Overview: Although car jacking maybe relatively uncommon at your international site, there is a strong likelihood there are reported incidents of car jacking. It is important to know the common methods of car jacking and how to best respond.

Types of Car Jacking Plans:

- *The Bump and Rob* – a car, usually with a driver and passenger, will rear-end you in traffic. Upon getting out to check the damage, the driver or passenger jumps in your car and drives away.
 - Tip: before exiting your vehicle, look around the area and make sure other cars area nearby. If there are no or few people around and the situation makes you uneasy, write down the license plate of the car that rear-ended you and signal for them to follow you (hazard lights on) to the nearest police station.
 - Tip: if you do need to exit your car, take your keys, phone, wallet and valuables with you and stay alert.
- *Good Samaritan* – the attacker(s) stage what appears to be an accident or injury and waits for you to stop and assist.
 - Tip: if you see someone in need of car assistance on the side of the road, proceed to the nearest police station and inform the police.
 - Tip: if someone appears to be injured/attacked on the road, lock your doors and proceed to the nearest police station. Although difficult, it is not recommended to stop and help as this can be a ploy to attack you
- *The Ruse* – the vehicle behind you flashes its lights or the driver waves to get your attention to indicate that there is a problem with your vehicle. After pulling over to examine your car, the vehicle is taken.
 - Tip: if it is just one car, or two cars traveling together, that indicate there is a problem, proceed to the nearest police station or busy petrol station to examine.
- *The Trap* – the car jacker(s) will follow you home and will attack while you pull into the driveway or wait for the gate to open.
 - Tip: when pulling into your home, make sure your doors are locked and windows are closed. If the gate does not open within one minute, continue to drive around the area until you are able to reach the guard who can open it for you. Do not get out of the car to open the gate yourself. If possible, call your guard before arriving.
- *The Road Block* – the car jackers stage what appears to be a police roadblock and flag for you to pullover and exit your vehicle.

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- Tip: only pull over to roadblocks during daytime hours that are clearly staffed by police officers (they typically wear white uniforms). Often times at roadblocks, you are not forced to stop as spikes are rarely used to block the road. During such cases, wave politely and claim ignorance if pulled over.
- Tip: Police *do not* set up roadblocks during nighttime hours. If you are driving at night (which is not recommended), do not stop at any roadblocks.

General Tips to Minimize Your Risk:

- *When approaching/entering your car:*
 - Walk with purpose and stay alert for suspicious people sitting in nearby cars
 - If you are someplace with guards/security nearby, ask them to escort you to your car, especially during evening hours
 - Approach your car with the key in hand and look inside the car before entering, especially in the back seat
 - Be wary of people approaching you as you near your car – handing out flyers, asking for directions/money, etc
 - Look at the car(s) parked on the driver and passenger's side of your vehicle. If a male is sitting alone in the seat nearest to your car, it is advisable to leave the scene and ask someone to escort you to your car
 - Lock your doors and drive away as quickly as possible. Do not sit inside and wait while you organize your belongings
- *If you are car jacked:*
 - Give up your keys and/or money if demanded, without resistance
 - If you are outside of your car already, throw the keys past the attacker as far as you can and immediately leave the area
 - Do not argue, fight or chase after the attacker
 - Try to note any distinguishing characteristics of the attacker and then proceed immediately to the police station
 - If you have a child in the car, let the carjacker know in a loud, clear voice, "my child is in the car". While making this announcement, unbuckle the child from the car seat and leave the area as quickly as possible
- *If the attacker takes the car with you inside:*
 - If you are in the passenger seat/back seat and feel your life is in immediate danger, you can jump out of the car as a 'last resort'. Of course, this is most safely done if moving at a slower speed. When jumping, tuck your knees to your chest, keep your head up and roll upon landing.
 - If you are thrown into the trunk of a car, kick out the back taillights, stick your arm out of the opening and wave to attract the attention of people nearby.

For more information please contact MGH – Global Health, Global Disaster Response;
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