

## **RECOVERING YOUR STOLEN VEHICLE**

The following is a list of tips for you: (1) to assist law enforcement to recover your stolen vehicle and (2) to minimize the costs associated with towing and storing your vehicle, once it has been located.

### 1. Contact your Local Police Department.

You should contact the police to report your vehicle stolen and fill out a Stolen Vehicle Report. Be sure to include the following information:

- Year, make, color, and model of your car
- License Plate Number
- Vehicle Identification Number (VIN)
- If available, recent photographs of the vehicle
- A copy of the vehicle registration and insurance
- A list of items in the car at the time it was stolen
- Any other distinguishing characteristics unique to the vehicle
- Telephone numbers where you can be reached throughout the day and your current home and work addresses

If you change your address or telephone numbers, remember to immediately contact the law enforcement agency where you filed your Stolen Vehicle Report. It could take considerable time to find your car and when located, if the police or a tow company cannot reach you, your vehicle could be sold.

### 2. Contact your Insurance Company and the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Most insurance carriers and the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) maintain databases of stolen and recovered vehicles and often work directly with law enforcement to identify the owners of stolen vehicles. This could aid in identifying you as the vehicle owner more quickly and thus help keep any tow and storage costs you may incur to a minimum.

### 3. Contact Tow Car Companies.

Begin by asking if the company does police tows (which are tows at the request of law enforcement). If so, it is helpful to provide them with a copy of the Stolen Vehicle Report and information on how you can be contacted in the event the company is asked to tow your car when it is found.