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News Release

For Immediate Release

Unattended, Running Vehicles Easily Stolen

With the extreme cold weather the Springfield Police Department is reminding citizens that leaving unattended vehicles with the engine running makes an easy target for thieves - a lesson learned by a 24-year old Greene County resident who left his car running in the 1900 block of E. Verona. Prior to leaving a friend’s house the man started his vehicle, returned inside while the vehicle warmed up, when he returned outside he found his 1997 Jeep missing. The incident occurred just after 10:30 p.m. on 01/03/10.

During extreme cold weather police often see a spike in the number of vehicles being stolen in the early morning hours when people are warming up their vehicles prior to leaving for work. Thieves also target gas stations and convenience stores where customers often leave their vehicles running unattended.

Police recommend staying with the vehicle as it warms up, and never leave the vehicle unattended, with the engine running, at a gas station or convenience store.

SPD Case Number: 10-340

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