



## SECURITY ADVICE & TIPS

This document has been drawn up to educate members of the general public on how to avoid robbery, and if you happen to be burgled how to react to hopefully save your life! It also highlights various fact and fiction regarding robberies as well as how to spot possible robbery situations and suspicious assailant activity.

### INTRODUCTION

Robberies occur in countries all over the world however; it is a serious problem in South Africa. Armed Robbery in a home environment is the most feared crime in South Africa due to the fact that the victims fear they will be at home during the incident and will be raped, assaulted, abused and / or murdered etc. which is not incorrect!

Most burglaries are committed in affluent areas for the logical reason that items that are more valuable are in homes that are more affluent.

**Armed robbery is the most common type of burglary in South Africa and more often than not the assailants burgle in groups of 2 - 3, sometimes more.**

The assailants rarely work alone and more often than not, they have had some form of “inside information” from a source that is familiar with the environment they wish to burgle, not necessarily your guard or domestic workers.

The assailants are predominantly armed with guns such as handguns or occasionally AK47s. Knives are less common.

**In most cases, armed burglaries do result in harm to the victims, and there is a 90% chance that someone will be injured during the incident. In most cases, the victims are harmed due to:**

- The assailants being interrupted whilst committing the act
- The victim trying to stop the assailants from taking his/her possessions
- The victim giving the assailant “attitude” and therefore angering the assailant
- The victim not following instructions



In South Africa, the tendency to inflict harm or rape is higher than in most countries, which has been theorized due to our history as an ex-apartheid country. It is also thought that the act of rape in this country is higher due to cultural backgrounds, lack of knowledge on HIV / AIDS, power and control issues as well as hate crimes. **Rape during armed robbery is NOT an act of lust, passion or desire.**

General armed robberies include the victims being tied up and kept in a room while the assailants collect the valuable items. The assailants will usually ask for the location of the safe, in which case tell them. An average armed robbery takes about 10 – 40 minutes depending on the amount of items the assailants wish to take with them, the transport available to them as well as the response time of the armed response company.

### **There are technically 3 different types of criminals:**

#### **1. The professionals**

The group will spend sufficient time planning and strategizing the incident. They will generally focus on extremely valuable items, such as money, jewellery, cars and weapons. This group generally subjects its victims to multiple victimization i.e. abuse, injury etc.

#### **2. The semi-professionals**

The group knows that the key to success is planning but they do not always plan enough. The group would usually scout a neighbourhood, case the residence, and wait for the right moment to strike.

#### **3. The amateurs**

The group is generally opportunists, and look for easy targets. They take chances however generally they do not enter homes, as the risk of detection is too high.

### **How to Avoid a Robbery**

#### **Your Home:**

1. Keep your shrubs small, neat and trimmed outside your gate, along your driveway, near your house and along your wall – preferably no large bushes where a person could hide behind.
2. Ensure your front door, gate and driveway are well lit at night with minimal hiding areas - replace fused light bulbs immediately.



3. Ensure that anyone leaving your property can get into their car, start it, lock the doors and be fully prepared to drive off before the gates are opened. Consciously think about this every time someone leaves your premises.

4. Be particularly alert if you live in a cul de sac, given their single point of entry and exit.

More and more residents are reverting to closing off cul de sacs and employing a guard at the entrance. However, when considering this, do not forget to liaise with the City Council.

5. Install electrically operated gates – consider these now a necessity rather than a luxury.

6. Familiarize yourself with your environment.

7. Install burglar bars on your windows and gates on your doors.

8. Install motion detector lights around your house so that they go off if they detect movement – the lights will go on for animals, moving branches etc. but at least the area will be lit up for you to be able to investigate the reason for the light going on in the first place.

9. Ensure no branches from trees are good climbers for assailants to use when getting over your wall.

10. Ensure that your backdoor has two locks on it.

11. Do not leave keys in outside leading doors.

12. Close curtains where you can.

13. Keep a spare cell phone in your bedroom, which has been loaded, and ready to use pay as you go so that you can use it in emergencies in case your phone has been taken, and your phone lines have been cut.

14. Ensure to have your electricity box securely locked and secured with 2 solid locks to try to prevent the assailants from cutting your electricity.

15. Do not park outside your gate while waiting for it to open, stay on the road adjacent to your driveway / gate – this way you can drive off easily if someone approaches your car.

16. When returning home after dark, ensure that there is an outside light on, or have someone meet you at the door.



17. Have various lights on timer so that they go on even if you do not come home this way when you do eventually get home you can still see!

18. If you arrive home and see windows or doors have been tampered with – **DO NOT GO INSIDE!**

Call your armed response company and leave your premises until they arrive! Keep skylights closed and locked – this is a common access point for criminals.

19. Do not leave ladders and tools around your house as they may be used to gain access to your home.

20. Close your blinds, curtains while at home at night, in order to provide being observed by assailants.

21. Have a beware of the dog sign strategically placed on your perimeter wall in various locations.

22. A small dog inside your house is generally a good option as it can act as an early warning system against potential intruders.

23. Keep your valuables in easily accessible areas away from your sleeping area where they are most likely to found in the hopes that they will not come after the victim to obtain them! Your valuables ARE NOT worth your life or your children's lives!

***Your Alarm:***

1. Ensure your house has an alarm, which is activated every night – without fail!

2. Install pet friendly outdoor passives, which will pick up heat signatures and movement and therefore activate prior to the assailant entering your house – these have a much lower rate of false alarms and cover more of an area than beams.

3. Install door and window contacts therefore you have peace of mind that if a window or door is opened the alarm will go off.

4. Ensure your alarm is linked to an armed response company. Take note of the more popular one in your area and use them, they will generally have a bigger presence in your area, which mean speedier response times.

5. Install an electric fence around your entire perimeter and ensure it is on at all times

6. Ensure your electric fence is linked to your alarm (armed response company).

7. Ensure there are no branches near your electric fence that could cause false alarms.



8. Install panic buttons at various locations in your home where you can get to them easily in case of an emergency.
9. Test your panic buttons at least once a month.
10. Test the response rate of your armed response company at least once a month.
11. Ensure your armed response company has the correct contact details for you and your next of kin in case of an emergency.
12. Install a door contact on your roof access panel as the assailants do like to gain entry through it – this way if they do the alarm goes off.

### ***Your Passwords:***

1. When your alarm goes off you require a deactivation password – ensure only the truly necessary people have this code.
2. When your alarm goes off you require a deactivation password to give to your armed response company – ensure only the truly necessary people have this code.
3. Make sure that if a domestic worker, friend, house sitter etc. leaves your life or home environment that you change all your passwords.
4. If you have a gate access password, ensure that this is changed on a regular basis. These generally are more of a problem, as you never know who has the access code and who gives it out – especially in complexes.
5. Ensure that children do NOT know any passwords whatsoever. They tend to talk about them without realizing the consequences.

### ***Access to your Home:***

1. Do not let anyone in that you do not know.
2. Keep your gate closed at all times.
3. Keep your doors locked at all times.
4. Ensure your domestic staff calls you if a “delivery” or “contractor” arrives and confirm it with you prior to allowing entry.
5. Do not give your address out to strangers.



### ***General Things to Note***

1. Read the Crime Hotspots section and see if your area is one of them!
2. Print the Emergency Numbers page found on this website and stick it on your fridge for future reference.
3. Install your armed response company as your number one speed dial number so that in the event of an emergency you do not have to remember it!
4. Be constantly on the lookout for suspicious looking characters or vehicles.
5. Take note of cars that are possibly following you.
6. Keep your eyes open for anything out of the ordinary – a parked car on the side of the road etc.
7. Make sure that if a domestic worker, friend, house sitter etc. leaves your life or home environment that you change your entire door locks.
8. Limit your domestic worker's visitors and get to know those that are allowed to visit.
9. If there are builders in your area have the police do routine checks of identity documents, work permits etc. To ensure the builders are above board.
10. Try and have packages and deliveries sent to your office.
11. If your lights go out press the panic button – rather it be a false alarm instead of the assailants having cut your power to gain access to your property.
12. If you are considering moving into a new area contact the local authorities, crime watch community etc. and find out how crime is in the area.
13. Read the crime stories in your local newspaper, which is generally delivered once a week to update yourself on new crime tactics and of the general assailant activity in your area.

### ***The Neighbourly Thing***

1. Get to know who belongs near your home or workplace, and who does not. Call the police if someone looks out of place or suspicious.
2. Know your neighbours – currently very few people actually do and the assailants love this as it means longer periods before help comes. Have a meet and greet cocktail party – invite those who live in your street and get to know them. At least this way if you are ever in a bind you can call a neighbour!



3. Get all the emails from your neighbours that way if something happens the victim can inform the rest of the neighbours – a knowledgeable neighbourhood is a safer neighbourhood!
4. Join your neighbourhood watch community and receive updated assailant activity reports.
5. If you currently live next to vacant land ensure that the owners keep the grass short and report squatters.
6. Try to get your road to engage in the utilization of a street patrol car that patrols your particular street only either on a 24-hour shift or a 12-hour shift. It has been shown that roads, which utilize street patrol cars, have significantly less assailant activity than roads that do not, this includes armed robbery and hijacking.

***When are Armed Robberies likely to occur?***

1. Over the weekend when there is less traffic
2. At night when victims are generally unaware
3. On Mondays when there is cash on hand due to the completion of the weekend around pay day
5. Dusk or dawn when you are usually sleepy, tired, generally unaware

***What should I do while being Robbed?***

1. Follow instructions
2. Give them whatever they want – your life is worth more!
3. Do not stare at them.
4. Do not look into their eyes.
5. Never initiate any movement yourself.
6. Answer any questions truthfully especially with regard to firearms. If the assailant finds out or suspects that you have lied to him, he is more likely to turn violent and unleash his frustrations on you physically.
7. Even in your shocked and terrified state, try to listen to and understand exactly what the assailants want from you.
8. Do not lie to them about the number of people in the house – including domestic workers staying on the property.



9. Try to concentrate on the possibility of identifying your attackers at a later stage. However, remember – this does

not mean staring at your attackers, making it obvious that you are looking for a means of identifying them.

Look out for scars, tattoos etc.

10. Stay out of their way!

### ***What is a suspicious vehicle?***

- A vehicle that follows you (could be up to four cars behind), staying in the same lane as you (not always), or taking the same turn-offs as you. Generally a car that is behind you for an extended period of time.

- A vehicle that drives quite fast, and moves in and out of traffic.

- A vehicle that contains two or more persons in it.

- A vehicle with dark / tinted windows.

- A vehicle that blends in i.e. has no stickers, is a common colour and make, is roadworthy.

- A vehicle whose number plate is “dirty” and certain digits or letters are unclear or covered.

- A vehicle that “lurks” around the neighbourhood for no obvious reason or drives around at a slow speed.

### ***What can I do if I see a suspicious vehicle?***

The police are urging citizens to make use of the 10111 telephone number if they find themselves in a hijack

situation. It is also open to anyone who sees a suspicious looking vehicle either following them or loitering around the neighbourhood.

### ***Who looks like a suspicious person?***

- Someone carrying a duffel bag or rucksack.

- Someone approaching your car for no apparent reason.

- Someone loitering outside your gate.



- Someone loitering around your neighbourhood.
- Groups of individuals approaching your gate.
- Groups of individuals loitering around your neighbourhood.

If you notice a commotion in front of you i.e. people fighting etc. amongst themselves watch out this could be a decoy! While you are watching the problem they enter your gate whilst you are unaware.

### ***What do the "signs" mean?***

- White stones, paper, plastic or a string anywhere outside your house means "easy target"
- Red stones, paper, plastic or a string anywhere outside your house means "weapon in the house"
- Blue stones, paper, plastic or a string anywhere outside your house means "someone on the inside will help the assailant"

### ***When am I most vulnerable?***

- When you have no electric fence
- When you have no electric gate or a gate that is not working properly
- When you have no alarm system
- When you live alone
- When your domestic worker has many visitors
- When you wear a lot of flashy jewellery – they follow you home
- When you go on a big shopping spree – they follow you home
- When you drive flashy cars – they follow you home
- When your garden / driveway / home is badly lit and your lights are low
- When you do not have a wall
- When your house is not viewable from the road
- When your gate is often left open



- When your garage doors are open and you can see your cars from the road – i.e. who is home!
- When your domestic worker is at home alone everyday
- When you have a lot of contractors or deliveries at your house or in your street
- When you have builders in your area!

### **What "deterrents" do not usually work?**

- Gate access codes – professional assailants tend to case a residence in order to observe an access code.
- Lights that are too low - the assailants break them.

### **Arrests**

The success rate of arrest for armed robbery is an estimated 7%, however less than 2% of those cases go to court.

### **This can be blamed largely on the following:**

- The suspect cannot be linked to the crime scene after arrest.
- The investigator does not visit crime scenes.
- There are usually no witnesses other than those who were involved in the incident and they are not considered to be "witnesses".
- Police arrive long after the incident.

## **HIJACKING AVOIDANCE**

### **Introduction**

Hijacking is not a new or unique problem to South Africa, although it may seem like it to some. Hijackings occur in countries all over the world however, it is a serious problem in South Africa and it is on the increase in all provinces!

Hijacking is also not only a problem just associated with industrial areas or up market areas; e.g. Wadeville in Germiston or Bryanston in Sandton, but rather a problem associated with the availability of a certain vehicle.

Due to this, most hijacking cases occur once a victim has been followed for a couple of days prior to the attack.



The hijackers generally plan most attacks and choose to strike once they know your routine, i.e. how you drive into your driveway, where you shop, when you are at your most vulnerable!

In 90% of most hijacking cases the hijackers are armed, however only 1% of attacks involves a fatal shooting. This means that the better prepared a potential victim is, the greater probability of the person surviving the attack with limited physical injury. Most hijackings occur on Fridays followed by Tuesdays the Wednesdays, Thursdays, Mondays, Sundays and finally Saturdays. The most common time of day is between 16:00 and 20:00 at night, followed by 04:00 and 08:00 in the morning.

### ***How to Avoid a Hijacking***

#### ***Before Driving:***

- Keep your shrubs small, neat and trimmed outside your gate and along your driveway – preferably no bushes - Ensure your front door, gate and driveway are well lit at night with minimal hiding areas - replace fused light bulbs immediately.
- Ensure that anyone leaving your property can get into their car, start it, lock the doors and be fully prepared to drive off before the gates are opened. Consciously think about this every time someone leaves your premises.
- Be particularly alert if you live in a cul de sac, given their single point of entry and exit. More and more residents are reverting to closing off cul de sacs and employing a guard at the entrance. However, when considering this, do not forget to liaise with the City Council
- Install electrically operated gates – consider these now a necessity rather than a luxury.
- When driving, avoid wearing flashy jewellery, chains, dangling earrings, cell phones, expensive watches, or anything that can be easily seen from a distance by a casual passer-by.

#### ***Vehicle tracking:***

- The only solution to vehicle related a crime is to have tracking systems installed.
- Have your key ready before arriving at your car. Do not dig around for your key while standing at your car.
- Do not chat on your cell phone while approaching your car – you are a prime target!



- Inspect the outside and inside of your vehicle before unlocking it – especially your tyres for slashes etc.
- Always have your identity document and driver's license with you.
- Always have a pen and notepad ready to make necessary notes.
- Avoid driving late at night or the early hours of the morning when the roads are quiet.
- If possible, avoid driving on your own – especially at night.

### ***Familiarize yourself with your environment.***

- Study the map book for your route prior to driving there – if they see you looking at your map book they know you are in an unfamiliar area and you are a prime target!
- Get to know who belongs near your home or workplace, and who does not. Call the police if someone looks out of place or suspicious.
- Ensure all your mirrors are adjusted to give you an optimal all-round view of your surroundings.

### ***While Driving:***

- Never pick up hitchhikers.
- Avoid driving through high crime (town, industrial areas etc.) or unfamiliar areas.
- Drive in the centre lane away from pedestrians where possible.
- Know the locations of your nearest police stations and populated 24-hour garages.
- Do not stop at red robots late at night – treat them as stop streets and drive on IF safe to do so.
- Drive with your cell phone lodged in your clothing waistband near your spinal chord, hidden under your clothing –

that way if something goes wrong you still have a phone to call someone!

- Have a spare cell phone in your car so that in the event of an emergency when they ask you for your phone you can

give them that one - make sure it does look operational and has R50 airtime loaded so it looks legitimate! (You should have an old spare phone lying around somewhere...).

- Be aware at all times – look around when stopped at traffic lights, intersections etc.



- Keep your doors locked.
- Keep your convertible roof or sunroof closed.
- Keep all your windows closed at all times, especially at intersections – even opening them a little bit is enough to stick a barrel of a gun inside.
- Try to vary your route to work, the gym – all places you travel too regularly.
- Take note of cars that are possibly following you – hijackers tend to do so for about 2-3 days before an attack.
- When stopping behind a car make sure you can always see the location where the tyre meets with the road for the car in front of you as this will enable you to move your vehicle away in an emergency situation.
- Be constantly on the lookout for suspicious looking characters or vehicles.
- Check rear-view mirror to ensure that you are not being followed.
- If you are being pulled over by a police car and you are worried that the situation is not legitimate put your hazardous lights on and drive to the nearest police station or populated location. If they are criminals, they generally will not follow you.

#### ***When Parking:***

- Scan the area for suspicious looking people
- Do not park outside your gate while waiting for it to open, stay on the road adjacent to your driveway / gate – this way you can drive off easily if someone approaches your car.
- When dropping a passenger off, make sure that they are safely in their own vehicles before departing.
- If you have to stop for some reason go to the nearest populated garage or police station – these usually have cameras there and hijackers obviously do not like this.
- Be constantly on the lookout for suspicious looking characters or vehicles.
- When returning home after dark, ensure that there is an outside light on, or have someone meet you at the door.
- When exiting your vehicle, be cautious and aware of surrounding obstructions and shrubbery that may be concealing a hijacker.
- Never sit in your parked car without being conscious of your surroundings. Sleeping in a stationary vehicle is particularly dangerous.



- When approaching your driveway, be on the lookout for suspicious vehicles/persons.
- Never leave your children in a car unattended – imagine you walk outside and they are gone!
- Try parking so that you do not have to reverse when you leave, as this will greatly reduce visibility.
- Never leave any important documents in your car, i.e. cheque books, bank statements, invoices, telephone accounts, credit cards, keys, remote controls or personal post, anything that may provide personal details, either while stationary or driving.
- Do not leave your garage doors open so that potential hijackers can see what cars you have!

#### ***Do Not Be Fooled By:***

- People claiming your tyre is running out of air at a robot
- False appeals for help
- “Accidents” such as having your car rammed from behind
- Your electric gates being jammed
- A stone, brick or ice being thrown that breaks your window and forces you to stop
- Beggars, pamphlet distributors (unless they are in groups wearing branded t-shirts etc. i.e. official roadside promotions – still be dubious), roadside hawkers etc.
- Strangers!
- People near your parked unoccupied car
- A commotion near you – it could be a decoy! While you watch the commotion they come and hijack you!

#### ***What to Do In Case of the above:***

- Drive to the nearest populated garage (there are usually cameras in the vicinity) or the nearest police station
- Do not stop for cars on the side of the road that seem to be in need of help – even if it is a little old lady (there may be others lurking in bushes nearby and she is a decoy)
- Drive to the nearest populated garage (there are usually cameras in the vicinity) or the nearest police station - Do not drive into your driveway.



Contact your armed response company and drive around until they are waiting to meet you at your gate to accompany you into your house. Seriously that is their job and they are more than willing to help you out!

- Drive to the nearest populated garage (there are usually cameras in the vicinity) or the nearest police station
- Keep windows closed!
- If approached by a stranger while in your car, drive off if possible and/or use your hooter to attract attention.
- Do not hesitate to report suspicious looking people or vehicles to the Police – a simple phone call can save lives!
- Turn around and walk away. Call a security guard to accompany you to your car.
- Do not pay attention to people fighting or still remain aware of YOUR surroundings!

### ***What should I do while being Hijacked?***

1. Follow instructions
2. Give them whatever they want – your life is worth more!
3. Do not stare at them.
4. Do not look into their eyes.
5. Never initiate any movement yourself – make them aware that you are going to undo your seatbelt etc.
6. Do not motion with your hands – tell them where they can locate items etc.
7. Do not raise your arms above your head – keep them at chest level. They may think you are trying to attract the attention of a third party.
8. Answer any questions truthfully especially with regard to firearms. If the hijacker finds out or suspects that you have lied to him, he is more likely to turn violent and unleash his frustrations on you physically.
9. Even in your shocked and terrified state, try to listen to and understand exactly what the hijackers want from you.
10. Try to concentrate on the possibility of identifying your attackers at a later stage. However, remember – this does not mean staring at your attackers, making it obvious that you are looking for a means of identifying them.



11. If they kidnap you – co-operate with them fully. However always try to think of ways to alert other people that you are being kidnapped etc.

12. If you have a baby in the back seat request that you can take the baby BEFORE reaching over to get the baby. If you reach over before asking they may think that you are going for a weapon and shoot.

Keep your baby in the car seat that is situated behind the PASSENGER'S seat. It is easier to reach for your baby that way and they can watch you with more ease while doing so. Try to move your baby by unlocking its safety harness with your left hand, thereafter grabbing its arm firmly and pulling it towards you. If you break your baby's arm while pulling it towards you that is fine it will survive – rather than getting the two of you shot!

13. If you have a baby sleeping in the back seat, which they may not have noticed, tell the attackers. Tell them that driving away with your child is only going to make things more difficult for them. Ask them if you can fetch your child.

Do not move towards the car without their explicit directive. Tell them that a baby means them no harm and is no threat.

14. Do not push the issue of saving your pet to the point where your life may be threatened at the expense of the pet.

#### ***What should I do if I witness a hijacking?***

1. Do NOT try and prevent it from happening

2. Do NOT try and tackle the hijacker or get involved

3. Do NOT stare at the hijackers · Act as if you do not notice anything however note things such as: - **Number of hijackers - Estimated age of hijackers - Race of hijackers - Gender of hijackers - Height and weight – weapon being used during the hijacking - The registration number of the vehicle being hijacked - the victim might not remember it or may not be able to speak thereafter - The colour, make and model of the vehicle being hijacked – The direction the hijackers went in – Assist victim ONLY if possible.**

**4. Do NOT follow the hijackers**

5. Call the police immediately with the details of the car that was just hijacked and the location of the hijacking so

that they can dispatch the air squad to follow the vehicle.



6. Ask the victim if **THERE COULD HAVE BEEN A CHILD IN THE CAR!** If so inform the police and the

tracking company immediately!

7. Ask the victim if he/she was injured? If so call **Netcare 911 - 082 911**

8. Ask the victim if he/she had a tracking device on the vehicle and if so the name of the tracking company – if so call the company so that they can track the vehicle and hopefully arrest the hijackers

9. If the victim is unconscious: - Call **Netcare 911 - 082 911**

10. Commence CPR if necessary and if you know how!

11. Try and find a cell phone on his/her person, if you find one search under SOS, last dialled number or Mom, Dad, or a special nickname used for a significant other and contact the person and inform them of the situation.

12. Immediately ascertain if the victim is allergic to anything or is on medication in order to inform the paramedics on arrival.

**13. TRY TO ESTABLISH IF THERE COULD HAVE BEEN A CHILD IN THE CAR!**

If so inform the police and the tracking company immediately!

14. Remain on the scene until the police arrive so that you can give them an eyewitness account and a statement of what occurred.

If you notice a commotion in front of you i.e. people fighting etc. amongst themselves, watch out this could be a decoy! While you are watching the problem they come and hijack you.

***When am I the most vulnerable?***

- In front of private residences 51%
- Victims sitting in parked cars 10%
- At traffic lights 7%
- At a stop street or yield sign 6%
- At business premises 5%
- Victims forced off road by decoys 4%



- While taxis are loading/offloading passengers 4%
- At shops, post offices, telephone booths, etc 3%
- Victims parking, i.e. either starting cars or leaving/approaching parked cars 2%
- Victims stationary and working at the roadside, i.e. repairing telephone cables 2%
- While loading and offloading goods 2%
- At other intersections 1%
- At filling stations 1% By hitch-hikers 1%
- Unknown 1%

### ***Who are these Hijackers?***

To date, the overwhelming proportion of all the hijackers has been men, and occasionally women. Operating in groups of four or five, sometimes more. The hijackers tend to be very young, in their teens and early twenties, although some victims report the presence of a 'team leader' who seemed older.

Women are being used to lull potential victims into a false sense of security, since most of us feel less threatened in the presence of a woman as opposed to a man. These people are sometimes well dressed, but not always. They may wear a jacket or jersey under which they may conceal weapons, mostly handguns and knives, but occasionally AK47 assault rifles. They may carry duffel bags or rucksacks to conceal weapons.

The hijackers operate from motorcars, although they do also attack on foot. The cars they use vary, but are normally high performance vehicles, sometimes with tinted windows. Their driving habits are immediately suspicious. Before an attack they may cruise slowly around a particular area (often for days before the attack) without any apparent sense of purpose or specific direction. They may also simply sit in the car parked off the road or in a parking garage.

Immediately after an attack, their driving patterns change dramatically. They will speed off, driving perhaps nervously and recklessly, but often with an air of bravado as if enjoying or flaunting publicly their total disregard for the law and the innocent person they have just attacked.

They might ignore red traffic lights, jump stop streets and weave in and out through traffic, especially on motorways. This renders them highly visible to the public and this is where private citizens can play a vital role in assisting these people's arrest.

### ***Are there different types of Hijackers?***



### **"Freight" hijacking**

In which a commercial vehicle is hijacked, is not only to secure the vehicle, but also its cargo, which can be of substantial value. Frequently, the cargo is of more interest to the hijacker than the truck.

### **"Transport" hijacking**

In which the vehicle is taken for the express purpose of using as transport during other crimes such as drug trafficking, burglaries, bank robberies and gunrunning. The vehicles are probably later cannibalized for spare parts or simply dumped.

### **"Showmanship" hijacking**

In which a gang operates out of egotistical bravado, acting on the "this is a cool thing to be doing" rationale. Peer group pressure is very high and individuals may be coerced into more dangerous and daredevil approaches, being labelled as a 'sissy' if they do not. Thus intimidation, violence and vandalism is associated with the crime.

### **"Operational" hijacking**

In which a group formally work together in a more structured way. They usually have experience in car theft and have established contact within the motorcar underworld that will receive and pay cash for stolen vehicles or spare parts. They also often have information with regards to the international black market, e.g. the movement of stolen cars into South Africa's neighbouring states.

### **"Syndicate" hijacking**

This is the most organized of all and often has international connections. A network of hijacking groups is established with the overall co-coordinator syndicating out work so that he remains out of view in exactly the same way as the "drug barons" use pushers. This makes identifying and arresting the ultimate boss very difficult.

Additionally, a syndicate is often backed by a lot of money, especially if there are international links and makes full use of any potential to bribe the authorities in order to protect their operations.