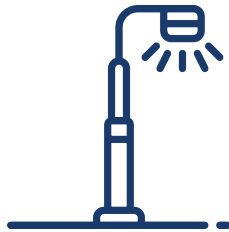


# PARKING LOT SAFETY TIPS

When thinking of parking lots, one normally does not think of potential hazards associated with them. Parking lots can be a location where there are pedestrian, driver, property, and personal safety concerns, especially when it is dark. The National Safety Council's Journal of Safety Research reported 2,057 work-related deaths on company parking lots over a recent 10-year stretch. That averages 205 deaths per year, in parking lots! Pedestrians and drivers should view parking lots as if they were streets and intersections. Below are safety tips for personal, property, pedestrians, and drivers to follow when using parking lots.

## Personal Safety

- **Have a plan** rehearsed in your head of what you will do in the event of being approached by a stranger.
- Avoid walking alone at night. Try to get an escort or even call security if needed.
- Be aware of your surroundings.
- Walk with friends.
- Park in a well-lighted area.
- Check your car before getting in.
- If your car keys have a panic button, know how to use it.



## Property Safety

- Park where your car can be seen from the street. **Avoid** parking near shrubbery or the side if able.
- Always lock your car.
- Do not leave valuables in view inside the car.
- Use an anti-theft device such as a steering wheel lock.
- Do not store an extra key under the car/fender/etc.
- At night, park in a well-traveled and well-lighted area.



## Pedestrian Safety

- Be cautious and aware of your surroundings when walking in a parking lot.
- Do not assume that drivers can see you when you can see them.
- Treat the parking lot like a street. Look both ways before crossing, use sidewalks and crosswalks when provided.
- Walk down the parking lots aisles and not in-between vehicles.
- Try to avoid areas where it would be hard for a driver to see you.
- In bad weather like snow, wear proper footwear to provide adequate traction to avoid slipping and falling.



## Driver Safety

- When looking for a place to park, park further away where there is less pedestrian and vehicle traffic.
- Whenever possible, avoid being in reverse. More incidents happen in reverse.
- Pull all the way through the parking space to avoid using reverse when leaving if you can. If you cannot, walk about the vehicle to check for clearances and potential hazards.
- Slow Down! Keep speed to 10 mph or less. Consider stopping distance in poor weather.
- Be cautious in parking garages. They have tight spaces and low clearance.

