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Sheriff

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News Release

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Portage County Sheriff's Office Joins the "9 PM Routine" National Crime Prevention Effort Comes to Portage County

In response to a summer full of vehicle thefts, the majority of which were from unlocked cars and trucks, and many even had their keys left in them, the Portage County Sheriff's Office announced today that it is joining the national crime prevention program, known as the *9 PM Routine*. "This campaign is about conditioning citizens to better protect themselves from property crime, and take more responsibility for their own security," said Sheriff Mike Lukas.

Many property crimes are committed by opportunists who look for an easy target, one that they can get in and out of quickly. An unlocked car door with valuables easily visible to someone on the outside is an irresistible temptation for some thieves.

Commonly known by its social media hashtag, #9PMRoutine, this effort is about reminding and conditioning people to go through their nightly security checklist, and make it a habit.

It goes something like this. Around 9 PM, or sooner, roll up your vehicle windows, remove your valuables, lock your car and home doors, ensure your garage doors are closed, and turn on exterior lights. Never leave your keys in your vehicle.

“By joining in the #9PMRoutine, you lock your vehicles each night, secure your valuables and lock your residence prior to going to bed,” said Sheriff Lukas. “In doing so, we eliminate the opportunity for burglars who often seek easy, unlocked targets.”

Look for periodic #9PMRoutine reminders from the Sheriff’s Office on their Facebook and Twitter accounts. That’s [Facebook.com/PortageCountySheriff](https://www.facebook.com/PortageCountySheriff) and [@PortageSheriff](https://twitter.com/PortageSheriff).

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