

# Parking Facility Safety Fact Sheet

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**W**hether you are a driver, pedestrian, or parking facility owner, it is vital to make safety in parking lots and garages a priority. Here are some tips to ensure a safer parking experience for everyone involved.

## Prevent theft, robberies, and vandalism

Parking lots and garages are often large with low levels of activity, making them attractive targets for criminal activity, vandalism, and other hazards. Theft and robbery can occur at any time and place, but parking facilities are more prone to such incidents than other commercial businesses.

According to the [Federal Bureau of Investigation](#), parking facilities rank as the third most likely place for crime, with 130,252 crimes against persons in parking lots, drop lots, and garages in 2021.<sup>1</sup> The timing of these crimes depends on the usage patterns of the parking facility, but theft and vandalism are most common when cars are left unattended for extended periods, such as during the workday or overnight.<sup>2</sup>

Parking facility owners should be aware that crime negatively impacts their business. When customers feel unsafe at a particular location, they are likely to avoid it and seek out safer



alternatives. Taking the following steps can help prevent crime and create a safer environment for customers and workers.

- **Provide proper lighting** to deter theft and vandalism and increase visibility for users.
- **Install security cameras** for continuous monitoring and as a deterrent to potential criminals.
- **Discourage loitering** through signage and enforcement to reduce opportunities for criminal acts.

## Prevent accidents and collisions

Ensuring the safety of drivers and pedestrians is crucial in parking facilities. Implement the following measures to reduce the potential for accidents and collisions:

<sup>1</sup> Federal Bureau of Investigation Crime Data Explorer, Crimes Against Persons Offenses by Location, 2021. Web. <https://cde.ucr.cjis.gov/LATEST/webapp/#>. Accessed September 5, 2023.

<sup>2</sup> Urban Institute, "Preventing Car Crimes," <https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/31261/1001193-preventing-car-crimes.pdf>. Accessed August 29, 2023.

- **Keep safe traffic flow and clear visibility a priority** when designing parking facilities.
- **Use effective entrance and exit designs** to manage parking lot traffic flow and congestion.
- **Use clear signage and markings** to guide drivers and pedestrians safely, reducing confusion and promoting orderly movement.
- **Prioritize pedestrian safety** by providing designated walkways, speed bumps, and well-marked crosswalks to separate pedestrians from vehicle traffic.
- **Establish safe loading and unloading procedures** and designated areas to prevent accidents and congestion.

## ***Use parking facility elevators and escalators safely***

Ensure the safe operation and maintenance of elevators and escalators in parking facilities through regular inspections, proper signage, and routine maintenance. Clear emergency procedures and communication systems are also crucial.

## ***Prevent slips, trips, and falls***

Maintain a clean and well-maintained parking lot surface by regularly sweeping, repairing potholes or uneven surfaces, and ensuring proper drainage systems. This minimizes the risk of accidents caused by slippery or hazardous conditions.

## ***Designate accessible parking spaces***

Designate accessible parking spaces that are properly marked, conveniently located, and compliant with accessibility regulations. This promotes inclusivity, prevents unauthorized



use, and ensures the safety and convenience of individuals with disabilities.

## ***Inspect and repair facilities***

Regularly inspect and repair lighting, signage, barriers, and other safety features to maintain a safe parking facility. Promptly addressing potential hazards prevents accidents or injuries caused by deteriorating infrastructure.

## ***Use a parking lot ticketing and payment system***

Implementing a well-functioning ticketing and payment system will contribute to efficient traffic flow, reduce distractions for drivers, and minimize pedestrian-vehicle interactions. This also improves customer satisfaction and enables effective revenue for the business.

By addressing these various aspects, parking facilities can create a safe environment for drivers and pedestrians, minimizing the risk of accidents, promoting efficient traffic flow, and ensuring accessibility for all users.



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