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South Burlington, VT 05403  
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## **Tips and Resources for Stolen Vehicles**

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At the South Burlington Community Justice Center we offer Parallel Justice, a program of the Community Justice Center. We work closely with the South Burlington Police and provide support and services to victims of crime. The main goal of our program is to help people feel safe and connected to the community. Below are some tips on stolen vehicle prevention and resources available if your vehicle is stolen.

### **Car Safety**

- Lock your vehicle at all times
- Do not leave your vehicle unattended while the engine is running
- Do not leave an extra key in the vehicle or store the keys in an unlocked vehicle
- Remove all valuable items every time you leave the vehicle, including small change, empty backpacks, etc.
- Secure car registration/title in a locked glove box or console
- Use a club on the wheel as a theft deterrent
- Change the sensitivity of your car alarm. A sensitive alarm can scare away interested parties.
- Install an anti-theft device on your catalytic converter. These devices can range from \$250-\$800 and cover the converter, making it more difficult to remove.
- Make sure your auto insurance has full coverage, not just liability coverage. If you are a victim of catalytic converter theft, your insurance may be able to help cover the cost.

### **What to do if your vehicle is stolen**

- Make a police report. The police can be on the lookout for your stolen vehicle and be aware that you are not driving it if it's involved in auto accidents or criminal acts.
- Notify your insurance carrier of the vehicle theft. Informing your insurance could help protect you if the thief causes damage to others with your car. Liability coverages normally don't cover damages that your stolen car does to others since you cannot usually be held liable when the car

is under the control of a thief. [Comprehensive insurance](#) covers your vehicle for things that are "other than collision," such as the theft of your vehicle. Unfortunately, without comprehensive coverage, there is nothing your car insurance company can do for you.

- The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) says that 57% of stolen vehicles are recovered, so it is possible that your car will be found. For recovered vehicles there usually are towing, storage and impound fees you will have to pay to get your car back. You may be able to get help with this because, in some areas, there is a crime victim's fund set up that you could seek reimbursement for these fees.

## **Resources that may be helpful**

### *South Burlington Community Justice Center*

The South Burlington Community Justice Center offers support for individuals who are victims of crime in the community. The Community Justice Center (CJC) offers emotional support and access to resources. The CJC has a small fund that can be used to assist individuals who are victims of crime. If the crime is a financial hardship we may be able to assist to cover loss/costs associated with the crime. Contact the South Burlington Community Justice Center to learn more of services, the Victim Fund or to receive an application contact:

Josef Lavanway @ (802) 846-4215 or (802) 735-4315.

[Jlavanway@southburlingtonpolice.org](mailto:Jlavanway@southburlingtonpolice.org) or

Elizabeth Watt @ (802) 829-5068 or (802) 846-4631

[EWatt@southburlingtonpolice.org](mailto:EWatt@southburlingtonpolice.org)

### *Vermont Victims Compensation*

The Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services offers support for individuals who are victims of crime including when a vehicle is stolen.

Where appropriate, money is available to pay for the following expenses as long as they have not already been paid by other sources: Medical and dental care, counseling for victims and family members, funeral expenses and lost wages due to time missed from work. Additionally, support may be available for other expenses such as prescriptions, eyeglasses, limited transportation costs. If death occurs as a result of the crime, legal dependents may receive temporary living expenses/limited relocation assistance. **Property losses are generally not covered.**

Link to Vermont Victims Compensation Application: [Victims Compensation Application \(vermont.gov\)](#)

## Therapist Database

Vehicle theft can have a profound impact on the community's sense of safety and the mental health of individuals who have had their vehicle stolen. Below is a link to a database of therapists in the South Burlington area. Potential therapists can be screened for therapeutic approach, specialty, availability and acceptance of insurance.

[Find the Best Therapists and Psychologists in 05403 - Psychology Today](#)

## **If a vehicle is recovered and it is damaged or hazardous materials are in the vehicle**

If your vehicle is damaged upon retrieval contact your insurance company. Your insurance may cover some of the cost of the damage.

If there are hazardous materials such as drug residue or if an individual has passed in your vehicle upon retrieval below are options for cleanup.

### *Meth Lab Cleanup*

Meth Lab Cleanup specializes in decontamination/cleanup of materials such as fentanyl and services Chittenden County.

[Meth Lab Cleanup & Meth Reside Decontamination Services – Meth Test Kits, Online Training](#)

1-800-959-6384

### Servpro of Burlington/Middlebury

Servpro specializes in decontamination/clean of hazardous materials including drug residue.

[Burlington, VT Water, Fire & Mold Damage Cleanup and Restoration](#)

[servproburlingtonmiddlebury.com](http://servproburlingtonmiddlebury.com)

802-497-1101

### *Aftermath Crime Scene and Biohazard Cleanup*

Aftermath Crime Scene and Biohazard Cleanup specializes in crime scene cleanup associated with homicide/suicide/death.

[Crime Scene & Biohazard Cleanup - Aftermath Services](#)

1-888-846-5758

## **If you are cleaning a recovered vehicle that has been identified as exposed to fentanyl**

### Fentanyl Exposure Risks

Risks from inhalation, skin exposure and eye exposure are all **minimal**.

- **Inhalation:** Even in circumstances involving manufacturing of fentanyl and analogs, nearly 200 minutes of exposure is required to reach a starting dose of fentanyl.

- **Dermal:** Therapeutic fentanyl patches intended for skin absorption require prolonged contact time, an occluded area and a delivery system. Short exposure to powder which is then brushed or washed off with water would be extremely unlikely to lead to significant absorption. **Note:** Alcohol hand sanitizers will not remove the drug and may increase absorption.
- **Ocular:** Eye contact should be avoided.

## Recommendations

Standard precautions are reasonable, despite limited data.

- Recognize opioid effects:
  - Drowsiness
  - Pinpoint pupils
  - Respiratory depression
- Dermal protection:
  - Use nitrile gloves for routine handling
  - Wear coveralls in heavily contaminated areas
- Eye protection:
  - Safety goggles/glasses if face splashing is expected
- Respiratory protection:
  - N95 or P100 ONLY IF there are significant amounts of powder in the air
- After skin or eye exposure:
  - Wash with large amounts of water if the skin or eyes are exposed
  - Do not use hand sanitizer

*Adapted from the ACMT/AACT position statement “Preventing Occupational Fentanyl and Fentanyl Analog Exposure to Emergency Responders.”*

## Additional Information Regarding Biohazard Cleanup

*Fentanyl Exposures and Cleanup- Minnesota Dept of Health Poison Control System*

[Fentanyl Residential Exposure and Cleanup \(state.mn.us\)](https://www.healthvermont.gov/sites/default/files/AAA.Fentanyl-Fact-Sheet_NN_EPC_FINAL.pdf)

*Fentanyl and Carfentanil Exposures in First Responders, Northern NE Poison Center, link from VDH, programs and resources for EMS agencies*

[https://www.healthvermont.gov/sites/default/files/AAA.Fentanyl-Fact-Sheet\\_NN\\_EPC\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.healthvermont.gov/sites/default/files/AAA.Fentanyl-Fact-Sheet_NN_EPC_FINAL.pdf)

*Perceived occupational risk of fentanyl exposure among law enforcement*

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34112568/>

*DEA fact sheet*

<https://www.dea.gov/sites/default/files/Publications/Final%20STANDARD%20size%20of%20Fentanyl%20Safety%20Recommendations%20for%20First%20Response%20Guidance%20Final%20Draft%2012-18-17.pdf>

*Fentanyl Fact Sheet/Environmental Protection Agency*

[https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2018-07/documents/fentanyl\\_fact\\_sheet\\_ver\\_7-26-18.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2018-07/documents/fentanyl_fact_sheet_ver_7-26-18.pdf)