



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2009

By Sherry Hornstein, Crime Prevention Officer



ATPA was established by the 72nd Texas Legislature in 1991 to create a statewide effort to reduce auto theft. The 80th Legislature amended the ATPA mission through H.B. 1887 to include emphasis on vehicle burglary in addition to theft. The resulting agency, known as the Texas Automobile Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority (ABTPA), is charged with assessing the automobile burglary, automobile theft, and economic auto theft (burglary or theft committed for financial gain) problems in Texas and analyzing methods and providing financial support to combat those problems. The month of July is the highest ranking month for auto thefts and to help combat this problem, ABTPA has designated the month of June as "Watch Your Car". You should be seeing and hearing advertisement from the ABTPA and law enforcement agencies concerning "Watch Your Car". Please pass this information on to all your neighbors, family, and friends.

CRIME TIP FOR THE MONTH:

Tips to Protect Your Vehicle:

- Hide your valuables. Items in plain view make your vehicle a bigger target.
- Take your keys and never leave a second set in your vehicle.
- Lock your car. Almost half of all vehicles stolen were left unlocked.
- Park in well-lit or heavily-trafficked areas. Thieves do not like witnesses.
- Give parking attendants the ignition key only. Keep your trunk and glove box locked at all times.
- Never leave your car running unattended. Cars are often stolen at convenience stores, gas stations or when an owner leaves the vehicle running to warm it up.
- Install an anti-theft device. Many insurance companies may give you a discount for certain [anti-theft devices](#). Check with your agent for details.
- If you normally do not drive between the hours of 1 a.m. and 5 a.m. enter your vehicle into the Texas HEAT program. Call the Crime Prevention Unit for more details 485-3808.
- Have the vehicle's VIN (vehicle identification number) etched onto the vehicle's windows. Call the Crime Prevention Unit for more information 485-3808.

In 2008 the top 10 vehicles stolen in Texas were:

1 Dodge Ram Pickup 2004	6 Ford F250 Series 2004
2 Chevrolet Full Size C/K 1500 Pickup 1994	7 Chevrolet Suburban 1994
3 Ford F150 Series 1997	8 Ford Taurus 1997
4 Honda Accord 1996	9 Ford F350 Series 2006
15 Honda Civic 2000	10 Chevrolet Tahoe 2001

It doesn't matter what kind of car you drive, all vehicles are a potential target of theft. In 2008 nearly 85,000 cars and trucks are stolen in the state of Texas each year, and thousands more are burglarized.

For more information on Auto Theft see www.txdot.gov/drivers_vehicles/consumer_protection/auto_theft . More information can also be located at www.victoriatx.org/police/communityservices/

If you have any suggestions, questions, or ideas for the newsletter, please contact me at (361)485-3808 or shornstein@victoriatx.org. Until next month.....stay safe.

SPO Sherry Hornstein, Crime Prevention Officer