



Vehicle Burglary and Theft Prevention



- **Lock it!** Always lock your vehicle and take the keys, no matter where you are parking. Even in your driveway and garage. Lock your trunk and close all the windows, even the smallest opening can provide access. Lock your vehicle at quick stops like the gas station, convenience store or ATM machine.
- **Park carefully!** Park your vehicle in the garage if you have one. If not, park your car where you can see it from a window. Park your car in attended parking lots when possible as a vehicle is 5 times more likely to be stolen from an unattended lot. Never attach a tag with your name and address to your key ring. Park your car in well-lighted areas with people around.
- **Add an anti-theft device!** Use an anti-theft device. First, try a visual deterrent using something that is visible through the window to deter a thief before he damages your car. Next, try a “kill switch” which is a hidden switch that breaks a circuit and prevents the car from being driven away.
- **Clean it out!** Do not leave anything in your vehicle. Despite the value, the damage a thief does to break into your vehicle is usually more costly than the item being stolen. This includes change, clothes, computers, credit cards, wallets, garage door openers and anything else a thief can use. If you want a stereo in your vehicle, try a pullout model or one with an anti-theft device. Remove car phones, briefcases and other business items. Be cautious when storing items in the trunk as someone could be watching you. The vehicle code requires you to keep your vehicle registration in your car but it does not require you to keep it in the glove box. Put it in an unusual place. Your vehicle registration and your garage door opener are a key to your home!
- **Mark it!** Use an engraver to etch your California Driver’s License Number on stereos and other valuable items. Next, record your vehicle identification number and keep it in a safe place. Also, engrave your vehicle identification number on different vehicle parts to prevent theft.
- **Report activity!** Join the Neighborhood Watch Program and work with your neighbors to rid your neighborhood of crime. Be alert to suspicious activity like someone loitering in your neighborhood, especially if you see them looking into vehicle windows. Be alert to the sounds you hear. Most vehicle burglars steal things by breaking a car window. *While it is happening, report suspicious activity to the police department by calling 931-2197.*