



RESPONSIBILITY + ACTION = POWER

CRIME PREVENTION WEEK ~ NOVEMBER 1 - 7, 2014
Crime Prevention is Everyone's Responsibility

Auto Crime Prevention

Top 10 Stolen Vehicles in BC in 2013:

1. Ford F Series*
2. Honda Civic
3. Honda Accord
4. Chrysler (Dodge/Plymouth) Ram
5. Chevrolet/GMC Silverado/Sierra pickup
6. Chrysler (Dodge/Plymouth) Caravan/Voyager**
7. Jeep Cherokee/Grand Cherokee
8. Ford Econoline E350/E450
9. Acura Integra
10. Toyota Corolla

* Includes Ford F150, F250, F350, F450, F550, F650, F750

** Includes Grand Caravan and Grand Voyager

Why vehicles are stolen:

- To commit other crimes – Vehicles are stolen and used in other crimes such as robberies, break and enters, drug dealing or drive-by shootings.
- For vehicle cloning – Vehicles are stolen, given a fraudulent identification number and then sold to unsuspecting persons who are defrauded of their money. Fraudulent vehicles will be located and seized by the Police.
- Some cars are stolen by organized gangs who pack high-end vehicles into shipping crates for transport overseas. Others are stripped for parts in a chop shop.
- For transportation – Thieves will use a vehicle to get where they want to go and later abandon the vehicle. They may just drive it around to gain 'status' with their friends.

The top 10 items stolen from vehicles**

1. Smartphones
2. Personal electronics — tablets, laptops, iPods, GPS units
3. Work tools
4. Credit cards and identification
5. Stereo equipment
6. Cash and change
7. Car parts and accessories
8. Garage door openers
9. Sunglasses
10. Keys

** As reported by IMPACT Integrated Municipal Provincial Auto Crime Team.

Bait Car Program celebrates 10 years of reducing auto crime

Launched in 2002 by the Vancouver Police Department as an initiative to respond to a growing auto theft problem at the time, the Bait Car Program has grown to become a province wide program of the Integrated Municipal Provincial Auto Crime Team (IMPACT).

Cars and trucks were the first 'bait' to hit the streets, but over the years the bait fleet has been expanded to include ATV's, snowmobiles, various watercraft, motorcycles and manufactured trailers.

Visit www.BaitCar.com for additional success stories.



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Reducing the Risk of Vehicle Theft:

In 2013, stolen vehicle claims in B.C. cost approximately \$27 million, while vehicle break-ins claims cost another \$13 million. Vehicle owners are affected by auto crime through loss of property, time, and convenience.

When parking your vehicle:

- Turn ignition off and take your keys with you. Never leave your vehicle running and unattended, even with the car locked.
- Park in a well-lit, attended area if possible
- If you must store valuables in your vehicle, keep them out of sight
- Completely close and lock doors and windows
- Turn wheels to the side to make it harder to tow

When at home:

- If you have a garage, use it and lock it
- If you have a rear-wheel drive vehicle, back into driveway. If you have a front-wheel drive vehicle, park front end first.
- Always set the emergency brake
- Don't leave the ownership or insurance documents in the vehicle when you are on vacation
- Drop business cards or address labels inside doors to assist with vehicle identification.

Other important tips

- Never hide a spare key in the vehicle, thieves know where to find it
- Never attach a tag with your name and address to your key ring
- Be aware of surroundings while driving and drive with doors locked
- Be aware when purchasing a vehicle. If the deal sounds too good to be true...It probably is!

Anti-Theft Devices

It is always a good idea to have some kind of anti-theft device installed in your car. Some insurance companies may provide discounts on insurance costs if a car features some form of anti-theft device. Anti-theft devices can deter thieves three ways:

- Physically — no thief wants to waste precious time exerting a lot of physical effort.
- Visually — just the sight of an anti-theft device inside a car will put off many thieves.
- Audibly — thieves never want to draw attention to themselves.

To help protect your vehicle, it's worth investing in the best anti-theft system you can afford. If you own an older vehicle, consider equipping it with an electronic immobilizer or steering wheel lock.

Electronic Immobilizers protect you best against vehicle theft. Electronic immobilizers require a special key or small electronic device to start a vehicle's engine. When activated, the immobilizer shuts off one or more parts of the engine's electrical system. This might include the starter, ignition or fuel system.

Mechanical immobilizers are after-market steering wheel locking bars and transmission locks. Both of these devices are good visual deterrents and prevent the vehicle from being driven.

Vehicle alarms draw attention to would-be thieves with sirens, beeps and other loud noises. Some systems trigger flashing lights too.

For more information please visit:

BC Crime Prevention Association www.bccpa.org

ICBC www.icbc.com



www.bccpa.org

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