

Car Larcenies

Protecting Your Investment



Statistics for Independence

- On average 4 vehicles per day are reported broken into in the City of Independence
- On average several larcenies are not reported because of victim not wishing to take time, or feeling police have something better to do



Statistics for Independence

- During the last 3 months there have been 361 larcenies from autos in the city
- Out of these Larcenies, 9 occurred at the Independence Center, and Hilton Gardens area.
- Remaining 352 occurred in our neighborhoods, and on our streets.



Past Statistics

- During same time frame of 2006 (April 1 to July 1) 221 larcenies reported
- During same time frame of 2007 (April 1 to July 1) 319 reported
- This year 361 have been reported
- 61% increase over 2 years



Why the Increase

- More expensive items left in vehicles
 - Ipods
 - Cell Phones
 - GPS Units
 - Laptops
- Easy crime, smash and grab takes seconds, not minutes
- Quick cash on sale of items, or as an exchange for illegal drugs



Problems With Larcenies as a “Gateway Crime”

- Identity Theft
 - Credit cards can be used
 - Charge accounts open with driver license
 - Checks can be crafted
- Burglary
 - Suspects obtain keys, garage door openers from cars
 - Suspects know where you live (driver license)
- Frauds and Scams
 - With personal info, it will be easier for suspects to call, pretending to be your bank or financial institution
- Stolen Auto
 - Upon finding spare keys cars can be stolen
 - Certain cars can be easily taken

Other Problems with Car Larcenies

- Glass is expensive to replace
- Time is wasted making reports, calling insurance companies, and having your car repaired
- Irreplaceable items are gone forever
- Down time until repair leaves your car susceptible to environmental damage



Other Problems with Car Larcenies

- Destruction of inside of vehicle
- Broken Steering Columns are very expensive to replace
- Cars can be stolen, and not returned
- Cars can be stolen, then returned in bad shape
- Insurance rates can dramatically increase



What Do Criminals Look For

- Criminals look for cars with easy items to steal
- Look for items in plain view
- Look for cars concealed by obstructions or other cars
- Look for cars parked in dark areas
- Look for cars in isolated areas



What Do Criminals Look For

- Desire
 - Seeing what you have
 - Needing of a quick fix
- Opportunity
 - No one around
 - Dark area
 - Concealed from view
 - Little chance of getting caught
- Ability
 - Anti-Theft devices
 - Items locked in Trunk



What do Thieves Do?



- Typically, thieves commit what is called a smash and grab.
 - Break glass with hardened steel hammer, or other object
 - Reach in, and grab whatever they can as quickly as possible
 - Will then sell or trade items for cash or drugs

How do you Prevent While Shopping or in other Public Places

- Remove valuables from your car
 - All items should be removed from the vehicle. This includes:
 - Purses
 - Any type of Bag
 - GPS units
 - Phones
 - Papers or Mail
 - Etc.
 - Items not practical to carry with you should be secured in trunk, or under seat if driving a van or SUV



How do you Prevent While Shopping or in other Public Places

- Park in well lighted areas
- Park in well traveled areas
- Avoid parking next to larger vehicles
- Avoid parking next to natural obstructions, i.e. trees, shrubbery



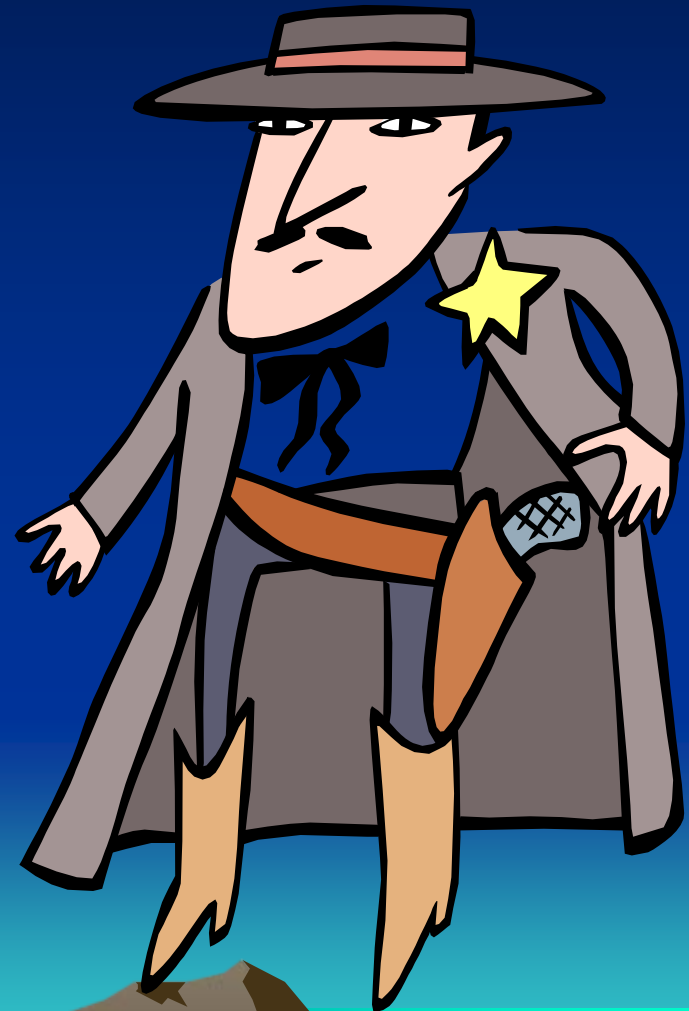
How to Prevent While at Home

- Take all items out of your vehicle
- Do not advertise possessions i.e. loud stereos close to your home
- Park in a well lit area
- Park close to your residence
- Remember your CPED (crime prevention through environmental design)
- If parking on street, park in view of windows



How to Prevent While at Home

- Motion Detectors
- Game Cameras
- Car Alarms
- Alert Neighbors
- Park in Garage



What to do if you are a victim

- Report it!!!
 - This allows us to track the offense
 - Contact your insurance company (if applicable)
 - If any items were in your car, which contained crucial identity or financial information, report it immediately.
 - Reporting of Larcenies can be done by contacting the information desk at 325-7300



Conclusion

There will always be individuals attempting to make a quick buck. Unfortunately, too often good people are the ones that lose the most. Although we can not realistically prevent every crime, we can take steps to help us not become the next victim



Rob Romey
Independence Crime Prevention
Officer
325-7643

