

Austin Police Department Auto Theft/Burglary of Vehicle Crime Statistics

Information obtained from APD Property Crime Statistics (September 1 -30, 2014)

Auto Thefts	Auto Thefts	Auto Thefts
Year to Date 2013	Year to Date 2014	% Year to Date Change
1,486	1,573	6%
Burglary of Vehicle	Burglary of Vehicle	Burglary of Vehicle
Year to Date 2013	Year to Date 2014	% Year to Date Change
9,526	7,893	-17 %

Major patterns for auto thefts during the month of September 2014 were:

- Trucks: 7 cases – a slight decrease compared to 8 cases the month of August
- Hondas: 24 cases (mid 90’s), a decrease compared to 26 cases the month of August
- Motorcycles: 16 cases – a decrease compared to 20 cases the month of August
- **In 54% of auto thefts, keys were used to steal the vehicles (keys left in vehicle, lost keys, etc).**

It only takes few minutes for a thief to steal your car and take your items which can lead to other crimes. It is against the law in Texas to leave your keys in the ignition or your vehicle engine running. *Texas Traffic Laws Transportation Code 545.404

CRIME PREVENTION TIPS:

- Lock your car and take your keys.
- Never leave your car running even if you’ll only be gone for a minute – leaving your key in an unattended motor vehicle is a crime in Texas.
- **Never hide a spare key or a second set of keys in or around your car. Extra keys are easily found by car thieves.**
- Secure your belongings. Don’t attractive thieves by leaving valuables in plain view.
- **Invest in vehicle and motorcycle theft deterrents – wheel locks, steering lock, tracking device, kill switch, etc. APD offers FREE VIN (Vehicle Identification Number) etching.**
- When buying from a private individual, make sure the title and registration are signed and match the name and address of the person selling the car. For title history report: www.txDMV.gov

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