

# VEHICLE BURGLARIES

## INFORMATION AND SAFETY TIPS



**911**

for a crime in progress



**442-339-2197**

to report suspicious activity

### Trends Detectives are observing

- Vehicles are being targeted in parking lots or streets that lack surveillance cameras.
- Communities and vehicles parked near major roadways are at higher risk of being targeted due to the easy getaway options they provide to potential criminals.
- Vehicle burglaries typically occur during the nighttime hours, and victims often do not discover the thefts until the following morning.
- Criminals target wallets, cash, and credit cards from vehicles, often using them fraudulently after the car break-in.

### What to look out for

- Individuals or vehicles engaged in "casing" behaviors—such as looking into windows, carrying flashlights or tools like screwdrivers and crowbars, or vehicles driving slowly, reversing, or circling frequently
- Vehicles that appear unfamiliar to you or your community, parked or stationary for extended periods, or exhibit overtly suspicious characteristics such as lacking license plates, altered plates, or covered windows or vehicle identification numbers.



# Suggestions on how you can protect your vehicle.

## Tips

- Avoid leaving valuables like tools, electronics, bags, wallets, garage door openers or personal items in your vehicle, especially overnight. Always take these valuables with you when you leave the vehicle unattended.
- Avoid leaving personal documents such as driver's licenses, passports, or financial statements in your vehicle. These can be used for identity theft.
- Periodically check on your vehicles to ensure it hasn't been tampered with or broken into.
- Familiarize yourself with your neighbors' vehicles to enhance community awareness and vigilance.
- Whenever possible, park your car in well-lit areas with high foot traffic or near security cameras for added safety.
- Consider investing in multiple security options such as dash cameras, easily installable audible alarms, and motion-sensitive light detectors to enhance vehicle protection.
- Always lock your car doors and roll up windows, even if you're only leaving the vehicle for a short time.

## Special Considerations

- Collaborate with your community, homeowner's association (HOA), or property management to implement security measures like installing security cameras in parking areas and improving lighting. These efforts are crucial as the police department relies on video evidence to effectively investigate these crimes.
- When reporting suspicious activity to police, provide detailed information about the location, time, and description of the suspect, including apparent age, sex, race, facial features/hairstyle, presence of scars or tattoos, and clothing. This helps authorities conduct thorough investigations.