TEXAS AUTO BUGLARY & THEFT PREVENTION AUTHORITY



BACKGROUND

Established by the 72nd Texas Legislature in 1991, the Texas Automobile Theft Prevention Authority (ATPA) became the first statewide effort to reduce auto theft. The 80th Legislature amended the ATPA mission in House Bill 1887 to also emphasize reducing vehicle burglaries.

The 82nd Legislature passed House Bill 1541, which increased the legislatively mandated annual assessment to \$2 for each vehicle per insurance policy. The fee is paid by individual policyholders and collected by the insurance companies.

The resulting agency, the Texas Auto Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority (ABTPA), is charged with assessing automobile burglary, theft, and economic theft

(burglary or theft committed for financial gain) in Texas, analyzing the methods and providing financial support to combat the problems.

In 2009, the ABTPA became part of the newly established Texas Department of Motor Vehicles.

ORGANIZATION

ABTPA consists of seven Board members appointed by the Governor to represent law enforcement, consumers, and the insurance industry. Through the guidance of the Board of Directors, the ABTPA has been able to continually reduce the incidence of auto thefts.

ABTPA has fostered a statewide cooperative network of law enforcement groups, prosecutors, insurance industry representatives, local tax assessor-collectors, and concerned citizens to combat vehicle theft and burglary through enforcement, prevention, public information, and education initiatives.

In addition to providing guidance and oversight, ABTPA awards financial grants to agencies, organizations, and concerned parties in an effort to raise public awareness of vehicle theft and burglary and implement education and prevention initiatives.

2010 QUICK FACTS

OF STOLEN VEHICLES 68,219 \$635.570.078 **ECONOMIC LOSS FROM** STOLEN VEHICLES PERCENTAGE OF VEHICLES 66% RECOVERED REPORTED STOLEN # OF BURGLARIES OF 263,479 MOTOR VEHICLES (INCL. PARTS) **ECONOMIC LOSS FROM** \$219,274,501 **BURGLARIES OF MOTOR VEHICLES** MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT RATE 271.3 (PER 100,000 PEOPLE)

Fact Source: Texas Department of Public Safety, Uniform Crime Reporting, 2010

TOP STOLEN VEHICLES

IN TEXAS, THESE FIVE MAKES AND MODELS TOP THE LIST OF STOLEN VEHICLES.

- ♦ FORD PICKUPS
- ♦ CHEVY PICKUPS
- **♦ DODGE PICKUPS**
- ♦ HONDA CIVIC
- ♦ HONDA ACCORD

FY 2011 ABTPA GRANTEE INSURANCE FRAUD STATS

INSURANCE FRAUD CASES 164
INSURANCE FRAUD CASES FILED 63
INSURANCE FRAUD ARRESTS 29

FUNDING

For FY 2012, ABTPA funded 28 grants totaling \$13,800,000 to local law enforcement agencies. Funded programs are currently located in counties that account for 90 percent of the state's theft problem. ABTPA has funded and managed 570 grants totaling over \$239 million.

Fully 93% of ABTPA appropriations is expended on grant related activity; only 7% is earmarked for administrative costs, including ABTPA personnel in the TxDMV, an attorney in the OAG, and staff for the Help End Auto Theft (H.E.A.T.) vehicle registration program in the DPS.

COMMITTEES

The Insurance Fraud Committee comprises representatives from insurance companies, Office of the Attorney General, Texas Department of Insurance, and law-enforcement agencies that address the growing problem of insurance fraud. The Committee identifies goals that address issues relating to vehicle theft "give-ups or walkaways," arson, VIN switches, and insurance fraud.

The Grantee Advisory Committee considers matters of concern to both grantees and the ABTPA, leveraging the experience, knowledge, and legal insight of law enforcement professionals to address the problem of auto theft.

The Border Solutions Committee, a bi-national committee established by the ABTPA in 1992, fosters communication with Mexico to reduce stolen vehicles on both sides of the border.

PUBLIC AWARENESS

The long-running Watch Your Car campaign has not only increased Texans' awareness of vehicle burglary and theft, but provided grantees with a coordinated theme, operational plan, and materials for theft-reduction and education.

As part of the Watch Your Car initiative, the "You Hold the Key" campaign increased understanding among Texans that leaving doors unlocked and keys in the ignition results in roughly 50,000 stolen vehicles in Texas every year. Stolen vehicles, the campaign reminds drivers, is a "gateway" to other crimes.

In 2009, the ABTPA launched "You Are Being Shadowed," a public awareness campaign that stresses wherever Texans go, car thieves are also there burglarizing and stealing vehicles. The initiative has won multiple awards including a 2010 Bronze Telly and a 2010 PACE Competition Region II Award.

GATEWAY CRIMES ASSOCIATED WITH AUTO THEFT

AUTO THEFT IS JUST THE FIRST STEP LEADING TO SERIOUS CRIMINAL ACTIVITIY, INCLUDING:

- ♦ DRUG RELATED CRIMES
- **♦** GANG RELATED CRIMES
- ♦ INSURANCE FRAUD
- ♦ DOMESTIC CRIMES
- **♦** ROBBERY
- **♦** TERRORISM
- **♦ VIOLENT CRIMES**

FY 2011 ABTPA GRANTEE GATEWAY CRIMES

CHANGE FROM FY 2010

VIOLENT CRIMES +14%

GANG RELATED -40%

DRUG RELATED -29%

ROBBERY +12%

DOMESTIC -20%

TERRORISM +50%

FY 2011 ABTPA GRANTEE AUTO THEFT RELATED ACTIVITIES

| 68-A INSPECTIONS | 10,075 |
|--|--------|
| VEHICLE ARSON INSPECTIONS | 233 |
| SALVAGE INSPECTIONS PERFORMED | 948 |
| STOLEN VEHICLES RECOVERED FROM SALVAGE | 181 |
| BRIDGE/PORT IMPORT CHECKS CONDUCTED | 612 |

