



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Corpus Christi Auto Theft Task Force and Texas Auto Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority Focus on Precautionary Steps Help Prevent Auto Crimes in October

Corpus Christi, Texas – During October, law enforcement throughout Corpus Christi and the surrounding areas will be informing citizens about auto burglary and theft prevention as part of a heightened public awareness initiative by the Corpus Christi Police Department and Texas Auto Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority.

The initiative is a combination of media and public awareness events aimed at alerting residents about the problem and what they can do to better protect themselves from becoming a victim.

Statewide figures from the 2008 and 2009 Crime in Texas Uniform Crime Reports show auto burglaries have increased by ten percent while auto theft has decreased by ten percent. “Auto thieves often steal or burglarize cars to commit other criminal offenses,” Corpus Christi Assistant Police Chief Michael Walsh said, “a stolen vehicle can be resold for its parts or used to commit other serious crimes. Auto burglaries often result in the loss of valuables, but can also lead to identity theft.”

Since September 2009, auto burglaries and auto theft decreased in the Corpus Christi Auto Theft Task Force coverage area with an eight percent reduction in auto theft and a 16 percent reduction in auto burglaries compared with figures from the previous fiscal year. Although auto crimes have decreased in Corpus Christi from 2009 to 2010, residents still have to take preventive measures to keep criminals away from their vehicles.

“Prevent yourself from becoming a target by taking a few precautionary steps such as hiding your things, locking your car, and taking your keys,” said Charles Caldwell, ABTPA Director.

For additional tips on protecting your vehicle, visit www.TxWatchYourCar.com.

About Us

The Texas Automobile Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority (ABTPA), supports a statewide network through grants, theft reduction initiatives, and public awareness/education. Since its inception in 1991, ABTPA has funded and managed 485 grants which have reduced motor vehicle theft by 66%. For more information on ABTPA and prevention tips, go to www.txwatchyourcar.com or call (512) 374-5101. Fan us on [Facebook](#) or follow us on [Twitter](#).

The Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV) is charged with overseeing the state’s motor vehicle services that provide consumer protection, assist motor vehicle-related businesses and raise revenue for the state. For every \$1 it spends, the TxDMV returns \$10 to build and maintain highways, roads and bridges and provide needed services to Texans. Each year the agency registers more than 21 million vehicles; regulates more than 23,000 vehicle dealers; credentials buses and big trucks for intrastate and interstate commerce; and awards grants to law enforcement agencies to reduce vehicle burglaries and thefts. Learn more at www.TxDMV.gov.

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