

IN THE NEWS

UK: Police in London Considering Tougher Tactics Against Scooter Criminals

By Simon Greenacre, visordown.com, May 10, 2017

LONDON'S Metropolitan Police is considering using tougher tactics against gangs of thieves on mopeds as scooter-enabled robberies in the capitol becomes one of the Met's highest priorities.

Speaking to the Guardian, Chief Superintendent Peter Ayling said the Met is considering chasing suspects with additional covert and marked vehicles.

Chases happen relatively infrequently because the police currently need special permission to pursue these thieves because they may ride recklessly to evade capture, putting themselves and the public in danger of serious injury. However, the Met is deploying more covert officers in London, both on foot and in unmarked vehicles, with drivers being trained to a high enough standard that they can give chase if approval is granted.

Robberies involving scooters are reaching critical levels, with 11,000 incidents taking place last year. There seems to be an increasing trend for them to become violent as criminals mount the pavement to mow down victims and use weapons including hammers and knives to steal items such as phones, wallets and watches.

Based on recent incidents, the police are becoming more concerned that robbers are becoming more willing to threaten or use violence.

The rise in scooter-enabled crimes, which frequently target mobile phones, are thought to be because thieves are becoming better at bypassing security on stolen phones, making them easier to sell on, or because of the value of spare phone parts.

All the time the gangs are getting away with these crimes, bike theft continues to rise as gangs steal bikes to use for criminal activity. We spoke to Dr Ken German, ex-head of the now disbanded Met police stolen vehicle squad and a man who holds a doctorate in International Vehicle Crime, to find out how motorcycle crime in London can be addressed. Here's what he said:

'Half of the reason scooter and motorcycle theft is so high is because the people stealing them aren't just taking them to break up or sell on, they're using them for crime. Using a scooter, you can push a motorbike along without its engine running and gang members can easily drive for miles like that.'

'The gangs that are responsible for motorcycle and scooter theft at the moment are organised gangs that deal in all elements of criminal activity. That is, they take part in bike theft, robberies, burglaries, assaults. Getting on top on this problem won't just mean targeting the theft element, it will mean dealing with the enormous increasing in these robberies and burglaries.'

'If the police also deal with these crimes and get on top of the gangs, I'm sure bike theft will start to decrease.'

Source: <http://www.visordown.com/motorcycle-news-general-news/police-london-considering-tougher-tactics-against-scooter-criminals>



IN THE NEWS

Canada: Brokers warned as car thefts spike in Alberta

By Will Koblensky, Insurance Business, 16 Jun 2017

Auto theft in Western Canada is an accelerating risk exposure and that's no more evident than in Edmonton, Alberta, where a chop shop with over \$2 million in stolen car parts was recently busted.

In Edmonton, auto thefts jumped 41% during 2016 with 4,865 vehicles stolen in Alberta's capital - but while the Insurance Bureau of Canada (IBC) is conducting an educational campaign advising Edmontonians not to leave keys in their car or leave car doors unlocked, a common practice in the city, there's another, more sinister element at play.

Dan Service, director of investigative services, Western & Pacific, for IBC, said sophisticated car thieves with international networks and chop shop connections are causing the dramatic spike.

"What we have in Alberta is an increase in stolen, unrecovered vehicles," Service said. "With an over 100% increase from 2012-2016 in Alberta, what it clearly indicates is there is a group or groups that have moved into the province that are now stealing these vehicles and doing a number of things with them."

The chop shop closed down by police in Edmonton last week, described by Service as "probably the biggest in Alberta's history", is believed to take apart stolen cars and put them back together using different parts for resale. Car thieves are also shipping stolen vehicles overseas, according to Service, which points to an international syndicated black market.

Service advised brokers to be aware of both the perceived safety of new cars and potential fraud by new owners.

"Brokers should know vehicles are absolutely available for theft when they are push button start vehicles," he said. "There was a contention for a period of time that push button start vehicles, as long as you had both keys, could not be stolen, but that's not the case at all. There's a variety of ways that key can be cloned, defeated or duplicated."

Getting a claim for theft within the first two years of ownership should also cause brokers to scrutinize the situation, according to Service.

"The Endorsement 43 that allows for anytime in the next two years that you get a full replacement value - with that endorsement there is a material benefit to the claimant giving up his vehicle to a criminal enterprise or burning it and burying it himself in those first two years," Service said.

Stolen vehicles also mean higher insurance premiums and greater overall risk.

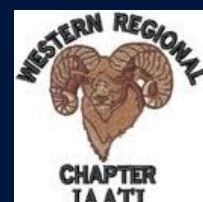
"If you put in a claim and say 'my vehicle has been stolen' you can pretty much rest assured that the next time you get an insurance premium for the year, it's going to be higher. And even if yours doesn't go up, because it got stolen in Alberta, mine does. It's a primary impact on the claimant and a secondary impact on everyone else," Service said.

Source: <http://www.insurancebusinessmag.com/ca/news/breaking-news/brokers-warned-as-car-thefts-spike-in-alberta-70613.aspx>

WRC & Western State Auto Theft Investigators Annual Training Seminar

11 – 15 September, 2017 - Laughlin, Nevada

For more information contact: Richard Spallinger - rspallinger@nicb.org



IN THE NEWS

Canada: \$2M in stolen vehicle parts recovered so far at north Edmonton chop shop: 'Never seen anything like this'

By Caley Ramsay, Globalnews.ca, June 8, 2017

Edmonton police officers investigating a chop shop in the city's northeast say it's the largest operation of its kind they've ever seen.

"Everybody in there was overwhelmed with what we had," Det. Dwayne Karpo said. "We're talking guys who have been investigators for 30 years, dealing with auto theft, and even they were taken back. They've never seen anything like this.

Police discovered the stolen vehicle operation in the area of 121 Avenue and 76 Street on Tuesday. Since then, a steady stream of stolen vehicles and parts has made its way out of the industrial lot.

As of Thursday, police had searched about half of the site, recovering upwards of \$2 million worth of stolen property.

"Anything on your vehicle that could have been parted out, was being parted out here," Karpo said. "The parts business is very lucrative. You think, you're paying \$1,000 for a door, tires, rims. There's big money in it."

The operation was "very sophisticated," according to Karpo.

"Just the organization aspect of it, very methodical where parts were placed," he said. "This is a great example of what can happen with a stolen vehicle.

"Some of them that we've identified were as recent as June 2. So June 2 stolen, brought here and it's already in parts."

Watch below: Edmonton police are sorting through what officers describe as one of the biggest chop shops the city has ever seen. At least \$2 million worth of stolen cars and parts are being hauled out of a north end lot. Fletcher Kent reports.

The Insurance Bureau of Canada has expert identifiers on scene, to help determine where the vehicles came from and who owns them.



Police discovered more than \$600,000 worth of vehicle parts and stolen property at a chop shop in northeast Edmonton. Courtesy, Edmonton Police Service.



Police investigate after discovering a 'chop Shop' in the area of 121 Avenue and 76 Street.

Continued on the next page

IN THE NEWS

Canada: \$2M in stolen vehicle parts recovered so far at north Edmonton chop shop: 'Never seen anything like this' (Continued)

"This is one of the largest search warrants related to auto crime, to my knowledge, in Edmonton's history and possibly in Alberta's history. It's a huge file," said Dan Service, western Canadian director of investigative services for IBC.

"There are many, many files here related to stolen autos. Most of those have been paid out, to my knowledge, so we'll be doing what we can to get that product back to the insurance company."

Members of the RCMP have also been brought in to help with the investigation. Police said they will likely be on site for another week.

Allen McKay, 53, is charged with unauthorized possession of a prohibited device, possession of stolen property over \$5,000, possession of stolen property under \$5,000, possession of property for the purposes of trafficking and altering or removing VIN.

Chrystal Lee McKay, 36, is charged with possession of stolen property over \$5,000, possession of property for the purpose of trafficking and altering or removing VIN.

Source: <http://globalnews.ca/news/3514013/2m-in-stolen-vehicle-parts-recovered-so-far-at-north-edmonton-chop-shop-never-seen-anything-like-this/>

UK: MoT's – accept paper at your peril this'

Following DVSA clarification used car buyers are urged to check MOT details online – the paper certificate is too susceptible to forgery.

Following a clarification by the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA), we are urging used car buyers to check MOT details online, rather than relying on the paper certificate.

In response to a Freedom of Information request the DVSA's MOT Scheme Management Team confirmed: "...the view of DVSA is that the test certificate is a receipt style certificate and it is the database holds the authoritative [sic] record... DVSA advice is that if a customer has concerns to the validity of the certificate or wishes to, they can confirm the details via the gov.uk website."

"This important clarification should signal a change in consumer best practice. Most car buyers accept the paper MOT at face value, but 25 years of investigating cloned and clocked vehicles has taught us not to be so trusting. The first thing we do with any claim is check the MOT on the primary source, the government website. It is a great free service and you can see at a glance the recorded mileages going back years and any advisory notes on the condition of the vehicle. Any discrepancy between this data and the paper certificate should set alarm bells ringing. Vehicle crime has become highly sophisticated but when it comes to paper MOTs a lot of the tactics are rudimentary, commonly simple photocopies with the mileage altered. In one recent case, someone had downloaded the sample certificate from the government website, filled it in and passed it off as genuine. They should at least put a watermark on that because they've inadvertently provided a handy resource for fraudsters."

MoT history – <https://www.gov.uk/check-mot-history>

MoT (current) & tax – <https://www.gov.uk/check-vehicle-tax>

IN THE NEWS

U.S. Watercraft Thefts Up 1 Percent in 2016

Increase reverses multi-year downward trend plans

Source: NICB Media Release, June 22, 2017

Reflecting a similar experience with vehicles, the National Insurance Crime Bureau's (NICB) annual watercraft theft report shows a 1 percent increase in watercraft theft in 2016, reversing a multi-year downward trend. A total of 5,116 watercraft were reported stolen between January 1 and December 31, 2016. The report is based on theft data contained in the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) database for all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

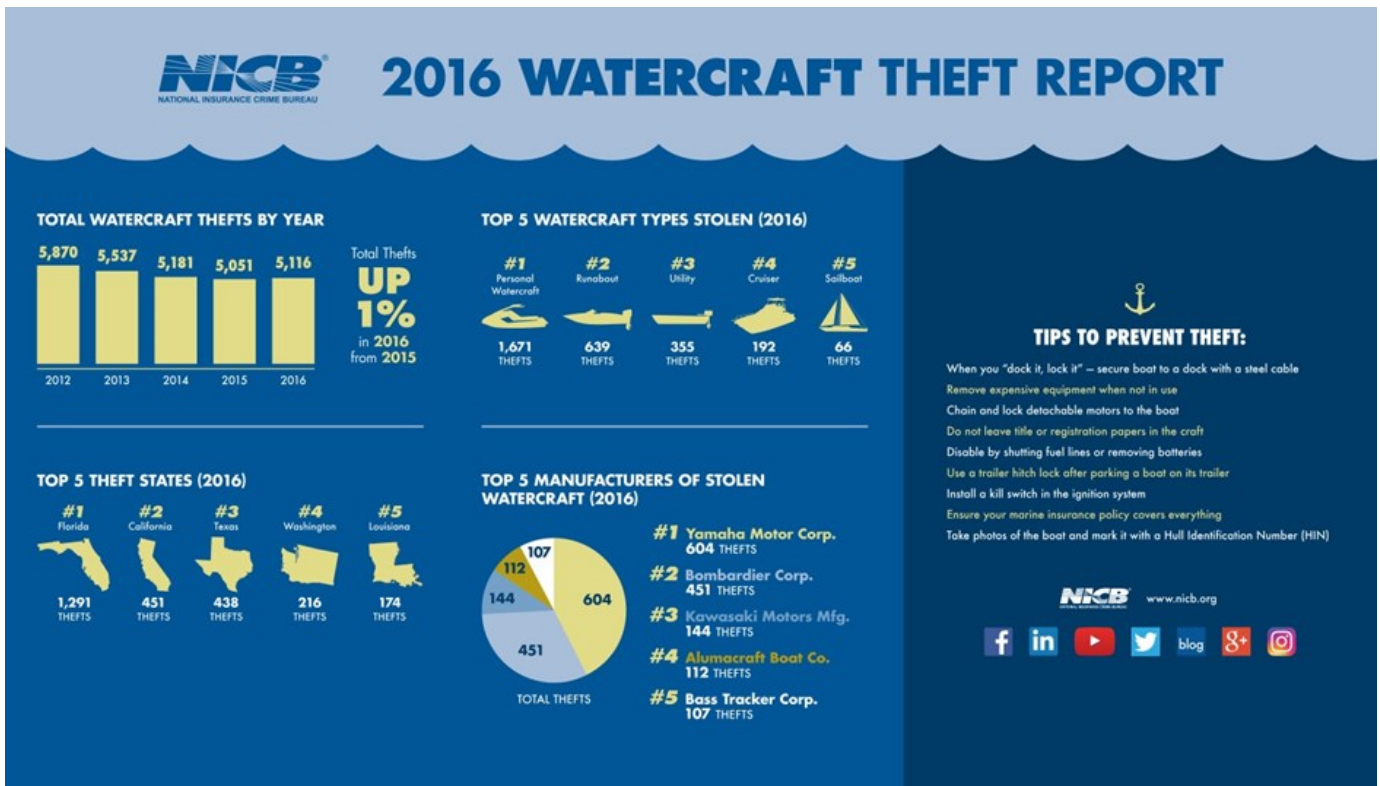
The **top five states** for thefts in descending order were: The **top five cities** for thefts in descending order were:

	State	Thefts	Recovery Rate
1	Florida	1,291	36%
2	California	451	55%
3	Texas	438	41%
4	Washington	216	50%
5	Louisiana	174	33%

	City	Thefts	Recovery Rate
1	Miami	163	28%
2	Tampa, Fla.	81	27%
3	Fort Lauderdale, Fla.	62	21%
4	Orlando, Fla.	51	25%
5	Tavares, Fla.	43	37%

Download the complete [watercraft report](#) and an [infographic](#). More anti-theft information can be found in our [boat theft brochure](#).

Source: <https://www.nicb.org/newsroom/news-releases/2016-watercraft-report>



IN THE NEWS

USA: How a stolen big-rig cab, minus its trailer, tipped task force to driver's plans

By Deke Farrow, *The Modesto Bee*, June 14, 2017

An operation initiated Tuesday by StanCATT took a bite out of cargo theft, a crime in which California led the nation last year.

Officers and deputies with the Stanislaus County Auto Theft Task Force, assisted by other agencies, arrested three men Tuesday on charges related to the theft of a big-rig tractor.

StanCATT was in the area of West Main Street in Turlock when officers saw a 2012 Kenworth big rig that had been reported stolen to Oakdale police. Surveillance of the rig was maintained as the driver began to take it through the county.

When reported stolen, the Kenworth was attached to a flatbed trailer loaded with crushed cars, said Mayolo Banuelos, a California Highway Patrol sergeant attached to the multi-agency task force. The trailer's absence from the truck cab Tuesday suggested the vehicle was going to be used to steal other trailers, he said. "We know that they use three-axles with the potential to commit more cargo theft."

While watching the truck, StanCATT identified the driver as James Sass, 36, of Turlock, who was known to be wanted on a felony no-bail warrant for a prior auto-theft case.

As StanCATT followed the rig, a GMC pickup was observed also following the stolen vehicle. The Kenworth and GMC made their way through Waterford and Knights Ferry before entering Tuolumne County and arriving in Jamestown.

Rather than pull over Sass immediately upon identifying the Kenworth as stolen, "we wanted to see if we could catch them in the act of actually committing cargo theft," Banuelos said. "We know our crooks and have a pretty good idea of their MO."

StanCATT requested aid from the Tuolumne and Stanislaus county sheriff's departments, the Sonora and Modesto offices of the California Highway Patrol and the CHP Central Division Air Operations Air 43. All continued to conduct surveillance.

Officers in unmarked vehicles followed the rig and the pickup – a U-Haul from which all the decals were stripped, Banuelos said – to an industrial area where a lot of cargo theft has occurred. The vehicles also cruised the backs of stores at shopping centers, where trailers often sit by loading docks, the sergeant said. At one point, the license plate on the rig was swapped with one taken from another.

When the rig and the pickup started to leave Jamestown toward Sonora, authorities decided to make an enforcement stop, Banuelos said.

Sass and the occupants of the GMC – Mark Smith, 48, and Derrick Delhart, 51, both of Hughson – were arrested. All three were booked into the Stanislaus County Jail on suspicion of vehicle theft and conspiracy, as well as on warrants.

The three men surrendered without incident, Banuelos said. "I think they were overwhelmed" when all the law enforcement tracking them became apparent, he said. "Once they reached State Route 108 and saw everybody waiting there for them, they made the right decision."



Three men were arrested after authorities conducting surveillance on a stolen big rig, **Stanislaus County Auto Theft Task Force**

Continued on the next page

IN THE NEWS

USA: How a stolen big-rig cab, minus its trailer, tipped task force to driver's plans (continued)

The Kenworth was returned to the owner at the scene.

Cargo theft is a major problem in California, Banuelos said, and the CHP is in charge of the state's Cargo Theft Interdiction Program, created in 1994 by Assembly Bill 813. The program's primary team is based in Oakland because theft is common from ports and industrial areas, he said.

For a time, the big target in the Northern San Joaquin Valley was loads of almonds, Banuelos said. These days, common thefts are of loads intended for stores like Walmart and Costco.

According to a Road Scholar Transport article on CargoNet's 2016 cargo theft report for the United States and Canada:

- There were 1,614 incidents of cargo and vehicle thefts, fraud and other related crimes last year. Of those, 836 were cargo thefts.
- 623 tractors were stolen, an increase of 8 percent from the previous year, and 732 trailers, up 4 percent year-over-year.
- Taking into consideration the average loss of \$206,837 per shipment, the 836 cargo thefts in 2016 would be equivalent to nearly \$173 million.
- Once again, food and beverage were the No. 1 products of choice among thieves, accounting for 217 thefts.
- While taking the No. 2 spot, electronics held the highest value loss, contributing to \$45.6 million.

According to its Facebook page, StanCATT consists of members of the California Highway Patrol, Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department and Modesto and Ceres police departments. The District Attorney's Office has a deputy D.A. to prosecute all auto theft cases. .

Source: <http://www.modbee.com/news/local/crime/article156090709.html>

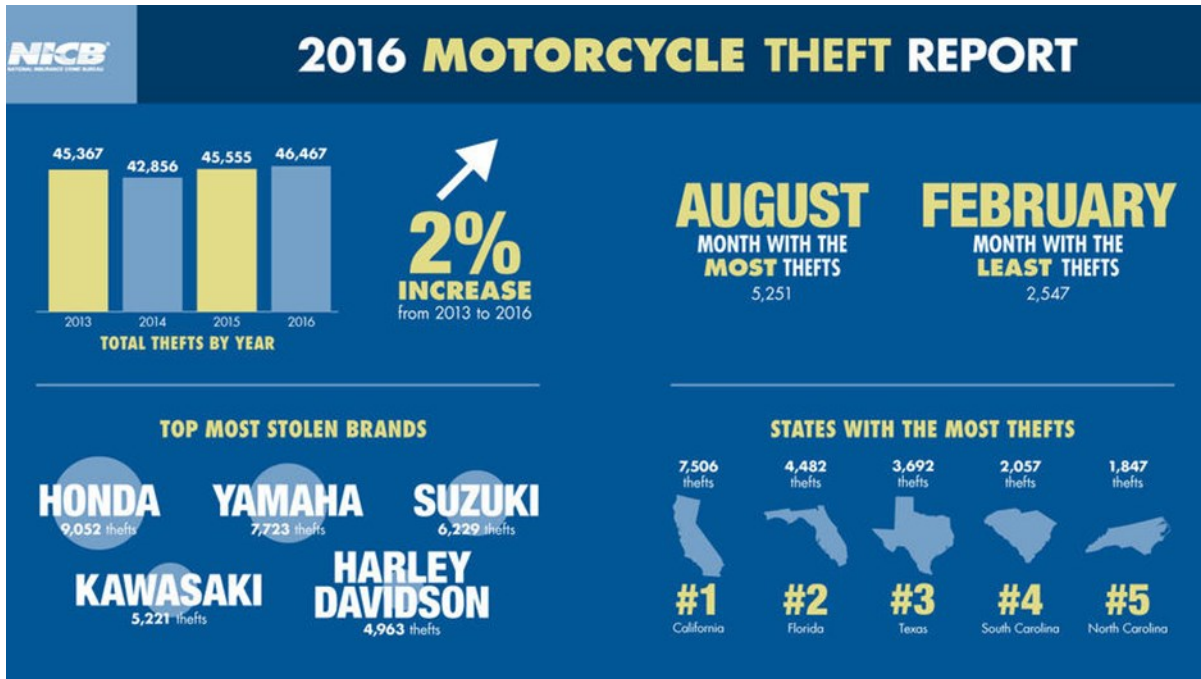


Two of the men were in this GMC pickup accompanying the stolen rig. Stanislaus County Auto Theft Task Force

IN THE NEWS

USA: NICB: Motorcycle Thefts Post Increase in 2016

Source: NICB Media Press, May 18, 2017

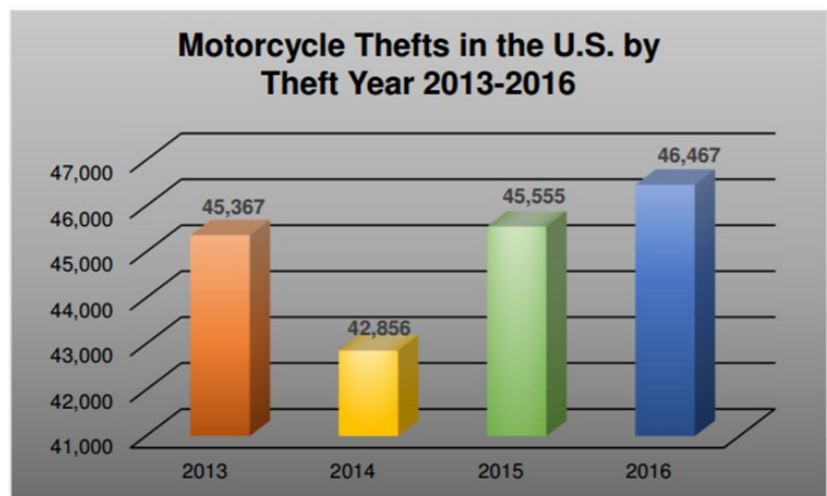


The National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) today released a report on motorcycle thefts in the United States for 2016. A total of 46,467 motorcycles were reported stolen in 2016 compared with 45,555 reported stolen in 2015—an increase of 2 percent.

Although 2016 delivered another slight increase in motorcycle thefts, motorcycle thefts are down considerably since 2006. They have dropped from 66,774 in 2006 to 46,467 in 2016—a decline of 30 percent.

The top 10 states with the most reported motorcycles thefts in 2016 were California (7,506), Florida (4,482), Texas (3,692), South Carolina (2,057), North Carolina (1,847), New York (1,731), Indiana (1,397), Georgia (1,296), Missouri (1,195), and Nevada (1,177).

The top 10 cities for motorcycle thefts in 2016 were New York (1,209), San Diego (849), Las Vegas (818), Los Angeles (760) San Francisco (616), Miami (610), Houston (607), San Antonio (411), Phoenix (347), and Austin, Texas, (343).



Continued on the next page

IN THE NEWS

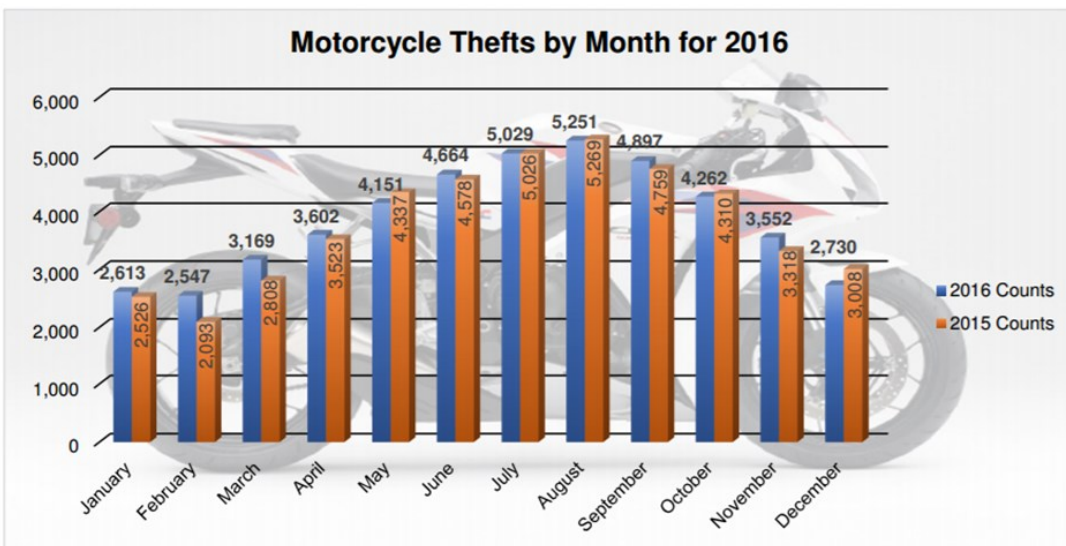
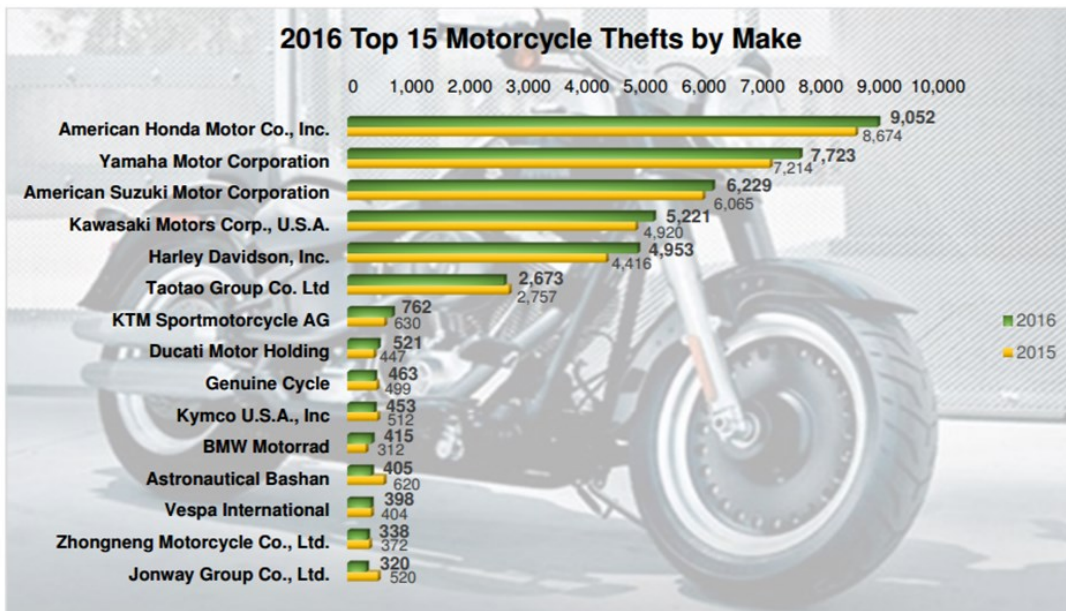
USA: NICB: Motorcycle Thefts Post Increase in 2016 (continued)

The top 10 most stolen motorcycles in 2016 by manufacturer were American Honda Motor Co., Inc. (9,052 thefts), Yamaha Motor Corporation (7,723), American Suzuki Motor Corporation (6,229), Kawasaki Motors Corp., U.S.A. (5,221), Harley Davidson, Inc. (4,953), Taotao Group Co. Ltd (2,673), KTM Sportmotorcycle AG (762), Ducati Motor Holding (521), Genuine Cycle (463), and Kymco U.S.A., Inc. (453).

The most motorcycle thefts occurred in August (5,251) and the fewest in February (2,547), which continues to reflect a weather-influenced pattern that is consistent with previous years.

Download the complete [report](#) and an [infographic](#).

Source: <https://www.nicb.org/newsroom/news-releases/motorcycle-thefts-post-increase-in-2016>



IN THE NEWS

Car Thefts Are Surging in Mexico and Police Can't Keep Up

by Isabella Cota, Bloomberg, May 3, 2017

- As thefts increase, recovery rates for the vehicles are down
- This is an ominous trend for the country's car insurers

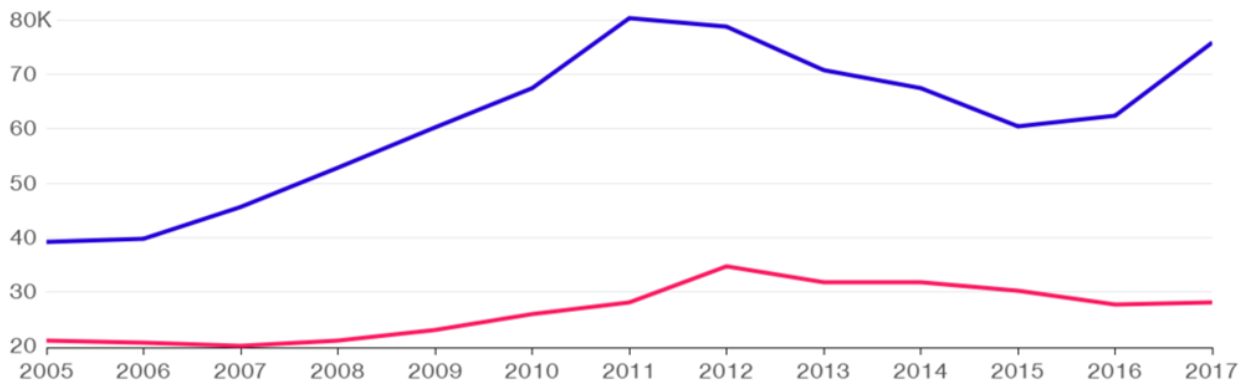
Auto-theft rates in Mexico are rising at the fastest pace ever, and authorities are getting worse at tracking down the stolen cars.

In March, the number of auto thefts rose 21 percent from the same month a year earlier, according to numbers from the car insurance association known as Amis. Meanwhile, the recovery rate -- the percentage of stolen cars that police were able to recover -- dropped to its lowest since at least 2005.

Mexico's Car Theft Boom

The number of cars stolen in March rose 21%, the fastest increase in 12 years

■ Insured stolen cars ■ Insured recovered cars



Source: Amis
Numbers are annualized

Bloomberg

This is an ominous trend for the country's car insurers, many of which are already paying out more in claims than they're collecting in premiums, Moody's Investors Service said in a report Tuesday. It's also part of an uptick in lawlessness across Mexico, which saw a 20 percent jump in violent crimes last year, according to a study released March 30 by the University of San Diego. A survey also shows Mexicans' perception of insecurity in their municipality and neighborhood is at the highest since at least 2011.

The car-theft trend "will continue throughout the second quarter which will, in turn, have an impact on first-half returns," Francisco Uriostegui, an analyst at Moody's who helped write the report, said in an interview. "In the end, it's the customer that will have to pay more, for a higher premium and it'll be due to a drop in the recovery rate for these vehicles."

Qualitas Controladora SAB and Grupo Nacional Provincial SAB are the two biggest auto insurers in Mexico, Uriostegui said, while units of Grupo Financiero Banorte and Grupo Financiero Inbursa are also among the top 10.

Source: <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-05-02/mexican-car-thefts-surge-at-record-pace-as-police-can-t-keep-up>

IN THE NEWS

Nigerian police, car dealers launch anti-theft automated system

By Ben Ezeamalu, Premium Times, June 16, 2017

The Association of Motor Dealers of Nigeria has signed an agreement with the Nigeria Police Force for the use of the PoliceBCMR, a technological means of attaching an automobile owner's biodata on a smart card.

At an official signing of the agreement with their consultant, Media Concepts International Limited, in Lagos on Thursday, the group said the initiative would help check the incidence of vehicle theft across the country.

"What has been happening before now, two of our members in the area of buying cars or receiving cars without knowing they were stolen.... before you know it, our members are either chased out of the business or run out of town.," said Ajibola Adedoyin, the association's national president.

"That's why we came up with this concept and decide to partner with the Nigeria Police so as to see how we can put a stop to it.

"And this will even reduce the amount of money and resources wasted on trying to get stolen vehicles. With this concept, I can tell you if we follow it well, it will be a thing of the past. At times a vehicle will be brought to you with original documents but it is stolen and if you decide to buy it and sell, you will be in trouble."

The PoliceBCMR also provides a platform for the centralization of vehicle documents in order to create and authenticate that database for police operational use in crime management nationwide.

Ayotunde Omodeinde, an Assistant Commissioner of Police, said the initiative was among the projects the Inspector General of Police, Ibrahim Idris, approved to combat car thefts in the country as well as protect innocent car dealers.

"Because often times, stolen vehicles find their way to car dealers and car dealers end up selling stolen vehicles without their knowledge often times," said Mr. Omodeinde, who is in charge of the police ICT Department.

"And police, in the course of our investigation, when we trace those stolen vehicles to the car dealer, the car dealer who has already paid for the vehicle end up losing their money because police will recover the vehicle and the car dealer will also suffer a lot of inconveniences.

"So police working with AMDON will ensure that when vehicles are brought to them, they will be able to cross-check whether those vehicles are stolen or not before they receive it or buy it.

"And whenever a stolen vehicle comes to AMDON car port, the AMDON member has a duty to inform the police discreetly so that the police will be able to recover the vehicle.

"This is a very wonderful initiative by the Inspector General of Police to ensure the integration of AMDON system with the police BCMR to enable us track stolen vehicles and to make it easy for members of the public to buy a vehicle without trouble."

In his remarks, Babatope Agbeyo, the chairman of Cornfield Group, the parent company of Media Concepts International, described the initiative as a giant step to safeguard lives and properties of individuals.

"People steal because they can use the loot or they can sell it but if there is a system whereby it's difficult for you to steal or enjoy what you have stolen, I think you won't do that.

"Police know that the job, security, has gone beyond guns and cudgels, it's now high tech, they are now embracing technology which is making it better.

According to Mr. Omodeinde, the PoliceBCMR would also provide police officers with handheld devices with which to check the smart cards; he, however, added that the process "is still ongoing."

Continued over the page

IN THE NEWS

Nigerian police, car dealers launch anti-theft automated system (continued)

"Computer is garbage in garbage out, if you have not registered your vehicle into the PoliceBCMR portal, there's no way you'll be able to check and see information about your vehicle," Mr. Omodeinde said.

"So the first thing you need to do, it's free, is just go online and register your vehicle, put the details of your vehicle particulars into the portal. Now, if you desire to have the PoliceBCMR smart card, you'll now go to a PoliceBCMR capture centre and make a request for the smart card.

"With the PoliceBCMR smart card, you will no longer need ... because police will be given a handheld to check... it's ongoing, it's what we are working on, part of why we are here.

"So police will just stop you, if you have your smart card, because it's voluntary, you show the policeman, he'll just input your information and he'll see status of your vehicle, your vehicle particulars, so you don't need to print road worthiness etc, the card will cover all your documents. But if you still want to be carrying all your documents around, it's left for you."

Mr. Adedoyin said vehicle dealers across the country have, for a long time, been at the receiving end whenever a case of car theft was recorded.

"Because you can imagine, an armed robber stole a car and it ended with a car dealer," he said.

"Meanwhile, the car dealer paid the armed robber for that car and he sells it to another person. When the police find out that that car is stolen, the car dealer will be made to pay back the money to the buyer, but they will not tell the armed robber to pay back the car dealer.

"I think this concept is a win-win situation, both for the buyer, the seller and the Nigerian Police Force, and that is why we feel this concept is what will bring to an end of what we call stolen vehicle in Nigeria, that is if we are all sincere to work together on this."

Source: <http://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/more-news/234269-nigerian-police-car-dealers-launch-anti-theft-automated-system.html>

Canada: Police recover over \$800,000 worth of stolen vehicles

Source: *CBC News, Jun 20, 2017*

Hamilton Police say they have recovered 75 stolen vehicles worth over \$800,000 in a single day.

The vehicles were recovered from Six Nations Territory last Thursday, June 15, as part of an extended operation targeting auto theft in the GTHA. The value of the stolen vehicles, police say, is about \$811,000 in all.

The operation was part of Project Shutdown, a joint forces project led by the Hamilton Police Service in conjunction with members of the Halton Police Service, Six Nations Police, the Ontario Provincial Police, and Brantford Police Service.

Members of Project Shutdown say they were able to identify numerous locations on the Six Nations Territory where stolen vehicles were being dropped off and dismantled.

Police estimate Ontario's illicit stolen car industry is worth about \$600 million a year.

High-end pickup trucks and SUVs are often key targets to be "stripped" for their parts and sold illegally and within criminal networks, they say.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/hamilton/police-recover-over-800-000-worth-of-stolen-vehicles-1.4168895>

IN THE NEWS

South Africa: Car theft victims targeted

From albertonrecord.co.za May 2, 2017

Do not deposit any money demanded from you either at Shoprite or into any bank account, but report the matter to Eden Park SAPS.

EDEN Park SAPS are extremely concerned about the random, and somehow increasing, theft of vehicles in the areas of Eden Park, Greenfield, Palm Ridge and the surrounding extensions, especially in Tsietsi.

Captain Emmanuel Jele from the Criminal Investigation Division (CID) told the RECORD that thieves have now come up with a new strategy after cars are stolen.

"Once a car is stolen, reported and the case is opened, the 'helpful' thieves contact the owner to inform them that they have the car and that the owner must deposit money at the Money Market at Shoprite and can then get the car back from a certain Colonel Ntshangase.

"In one case the thieves told the owner that his car stolen in Tsietsi was in Venda at the Vehicle Safeguarding Unit and that he must deposit R900 at the Shoprite for their travelling costs from Venda to Gauteng to bring the car. Luckily the owner did not make the deposit but reported the matter to us and after phoning the number, we discovered that it was a scam," Jele said.

He further reported that in another case, also a Tsietsi case, the thieves told the owner to pay in R15 000 at Shoprite to get his car back. The owner also hesitated to make the payment and reported the matter to the police.

Jele said he wants the community to be vigilant and very cautious concerning these clever thieves who can be very convincing and get people to deposit the money, resulting in their loss of both finances and a vehicle.

"When I spoke to the person in Venda, I quickly discovered that he was not a police officer by the way he answered my questions and the way he addressed me," he said.

"I am not really sure, but I get a feeling that there might be officers involved because how could somebody out there in Venda know the owner of the car and know his personal contact details? Please do not deposit any money demanded from you at either Shoprite or into any bank account, but report the matter to us by phoning 011 439 1806."

Source: <http://albertonrecord.co.za/142321/car-theft-victims-targeted/>



BE WARNED: Captain Ziphe Emmanuel Jele from the Criminal Investigation Division of Eden Park SAPS conveys a warning concerning stolen vehicles.

IN THE NEWS

South Africa: SAPS Notches Up Huge Success Against Vehicle Crime

Press release, AllAfrica.com

Pretoria — During multi-disciplinary operations several suspects believed to part of a vehicle carjacking syndicate were arrested over the past week.

During the last release of the crime statistics, the crime category of aggravated robbery, particularly the trio crimes of house robberies, business robberies and carjackings, was highlighted as being extremely problematic and concerning. The South African Police Service's top management met early in March and drafted a National Trio Crimes Action Plan to tackle these crimes in a coordinated and focused manner.

Last week, on Friday 12 May 2017, members of SAPS Crime Intelligence uncovered information on a hijacked BMW X5 which led to the arrest of four suspects in Middelburg.

Following further intelligence received, a team comprising of members the SAPS Detective Service, Visible Policing, Special Task Force, Vehicle Crimes Unit, DPCI - supported by Tracker and Bidvest Protea Coin - arrested a further two suspects in Lenesia, south of Johannesburg and recovered another nine luxury vehicles to the value of approximately R7 million.

These vehicles included a Porche 911, BMW M3, Audi RS 7, Mercedes Benz, Toyota Hilux double cab, Ford Ranger double cab, an H1 mini-bus and two motor cycles. These vehicles had been hi-jacked in various areas in and around Johannesburg and Pretoria.

The team also recovered a hand-held radio and two firearms which will be ballistically tested to establish if they were used in the commission of any crimes. Approximately R600 000 in cash was also seized.

The suspects are likely to face charges of being in possession of vehicles suspected to be stolen. Further charges could well be added as investigations and liaison with the prosecuting authority continues. The suspects are expected to appear in the Lenasia Magistrates Court on Monday, 22 May 2017.

All role players are to be commended on this huge breakthrough which will undoubtedly disrupt organised carjackings and motor vehicle theft in Gauteng.

As part of the implementation of the National Trio Crimes Action Plan, the SAPS is liaising and working closely with other role players in, inter alia, the security, banking and vehicle industries and their support is appreciated.

Investigations continue and more arrests cannot be ruled out.

Source: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201705220492.htm>

Important Notice to All Members

All members are asked to log onto the international website and update the preferred contact address for the mailing of APB magazine and your preferred email address. Simply go to www.iaati.org click Account and log on using your email address that you received this issue of *Auto Theft Today*. On your Member dashboard you can review and edit any of your personal contact details and select your preferred point of contact, i.e. home or work. If you have forgotten your website password, click the 'Forgotten your password' link to reset it.

IN THE NEWS

Kenya: NTSA targets traffic offenders in Sh2.3bn electronic stickers plan

By Mugambi Muteg, www.businessdailyafrica.com, May 31, 2017

Motorists will soon find it harder to get away with traffic offences while the police will find it easier to recover stolen vehicles following the launch of electronic stickers in a State project expected to cost vehicle owners up to Sh2.3 billion.

The stickers, to be affixed on vehicle windscreens, will in an instant tell police and NTSA officials whether a car is stolen, its insurance status and history of traffic offences.

The National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA) yesterday announced it had procured 1.3 million of the electronic stickers from a German company, the first batch of an expected 3.3 million.

Motorists will pay Sh700 each for a sticker, indicating the NTSA could collect up to Sh2.3 billion from vehicle owners.

“We are heading to a point where when you commit a traffic violation, you do not have to be arrested and taken to court—the readers will capture your details from the chip and we shall send you a notification of the offence committed and fine to be paid within a certain period,” said the NTSA director-general, Francis Meja.

It will be mandatory for all cars registered from July 1 to have the new stickers, which will be embedded with electronic chips. The electronic chips will be loaded with each vehicle’s details, including the number plate, model and chassis number that will be linked to a central database.

The stickers will use radio-frequency technology to transmit information to the NTSA’s core system, via hand-held readers or overhead street cameras.

Mr Meja said the new technology will assist in automation of law enforcement and boost recovery of stolen vehicles.

“Once the sticker is placed on a vehicle, you cannot remove it without destroying it. Our readers can be pick data on the sticker even from a distance of over six metres. It can even read details of a vehicle moving at 200 kilometres per hour,” he said.



The scanner that will be used by NTSA to detect the third license sticker that will be placed on the windscreen of both new and used motor vehicles. Photo: dennis onsongo | nmg

Continued on the next page

IN THE NEWS

Kenya: NTSA targets traffic offenders in Sh2.3bn electronic stickers plan (continued)

Decade-long shelf life

The sticker has a 10-year shelf life. Commercial vehicles will have to comply by the end of the year as a prerequisite to pass roadworthiness inspection while all other motor vehicles are expected to be compliant by early 2018. Private motorists will be required to acquire the stickers when renewing their annual insurance.

There are over two million registered motor vehicles in the country, according to the NTSA. Tönnjes Group, the German-based supplier of the stickers, says it signed a deal to supply and support installation of 3.3 million of them over three years.

Despite the fact that billions of shillings have been spent installing different versions of security and traffic cameras in major towns across the country, there exists no linkage between motorists and the NTSA database.

This deficiency has emboldened motor vehicle thieves since they swap number plates upon stealing a car, helping to throw the police off their tracks.

Unruly motorists on the other hand break the law with impunity by, for instance, jumping red lights or overlapping even when the cameras are in range.

Tönnjes says its “holographic windshield label” are tamper-proof and tamper-evident and that “stripping off the tag, for example to obscure a car theft, is impossible.”

Their technology is being used in countries like Peru and Cayman Islands. The windshield labels are also referred to as third licence stickers, with the preceding two being number plates affixed to the front and back of a vehicle.

The NTSA, which has been piloting the technology internally for several months, purchased each sticker at Sh300, with the additional amount going towards the cost of the system and its maintenance over several years.

“When motor vehicle thieves are apprehended, it is common to find them with several sets of number plates. If there is damage to the sticker, officers should automatically regard the cars’ occupants as suspicious,” said Mr Meja.

“We have cameras all over but without a proper way of linking the vehicle to the cameras and database, they will be pointless.”

Digitise information

The NTSA says the introduction of the stickers is part of the ongoing process to update and vet information present in its central automobile database —traffic information & management system (TIMS).

The update, which is expected to be complete by 2020, has seen the authority recently migrate processes like transfer of motor vehicle ownership to the digital space as manual filings were discarded.

The NTSA says the new windshield labels could in future be embedded with insurance, inspection and road service, leading to the eventual discarding of paper sticker licences.

Mr Meja said technology will also come in handy when toll stations are introduced on major highways. The embedded chip, he says, will be capable of billing motorists automatically without them having to bring their vehicles to a halt.

“We are preparing the ground for a radical change in the way we do enforcement. We have been highly dependent on human beings on the ground who can decide to ignore some things and act on others” he said.

Source: <http://www.businessdailyafrica.com/news/NTSA-targets-motorists-in-Sh2-3bn-stickers-plan/539546-3949182-uu3hf2/>

IN THE NEWS

Liberia - A Hub For Stolen Vehicles From the United States

By Rodney D. Sieh, *frontpageafricaonline.com* 21 June 2017

FrontPageAfrica has learned that the US Embassy in Monrovia, in October last year notified local investigative agencies including the Liberia National Police (LNP), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Justice and the Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA) that several vehicles had been stolen from the US.

In one communication, to the LRA, the US Embassy in Monrovia sought assistance in transferring the stolen vehicles back to the U.S. The communication stated that the US has had a history of vehicles being stolen and transported to Liberia and other West African countries illegally.

39 Vehicles Linked to Oragon Rent-A-Car International

At least thirty-nine of the stolen vehicles are said to be on the parking lot of Oragon, owned and operated by Dr. C. Nelson Oniyama, majority owner of Oragon and Managing Director of the Monrovia Brewery.

Continued on the next page



Monrovia— A FrontPageAfrica investigation has uncovered a major car theft ring in Liberia involving a local car rental company, Oragon International Rent-A-Car

IN THE NEWS

Liberia - A Hub For Stolen Vehicles From the United States (continued)

Investigators noted that the major push for the number of vehicles, coincided with the opening of Oragon Rent-A-Car International in 2013. Our folks at Customs according to our investigation did not exercise due diligence in ensuring that proper controls were put in place-verification and ascertaining rightfully ownership documents of the Vehicles on these manifests. The vehicles, according to documents in our possession were reportedly stolen from the United States of America and are subject to a major ongoing criminal investigation involving several US law enforcement agencies.

Among the vehicles listed as stolen are:

- a Toyota Rav4 (2014) with VIN number: 2T3DFREV3EW167285;
- a Dodge Ram 1500 (2016) Vin Number 1CRR7GG2GS304994;
- a Jeep Grand Cherokee (2016) Vin Number 1C4RJFBG9GC44719;
- a Jeep Wrangler (2016) Vin Number 1RC4HJWDG0GL213274;
- an Audi Q5 (2016) Vin Number WA1L2AFP4GA037147;
- Mercedes Benz C300(2015) Vin 55SWF4KB3FU038569

Other vehicles listed are:

- Toyota Sequoia (SUV) 2013, Vin Number 5TDJY5G15DS087132;
- Toyota Venza (VAN) 2013, 4T3BK3BB1DU076620;
- Toyota Venza (Van) 2013, 4T3BA3BB2DU042368;
- Toyota Highlander (SUV) 2013, 5TDDK3EH2DS184162;
- Toyota Highlander (SUV) 2013 5TDBK3EH1DS217045;
- Toyota Corolla (Sedan); 2T1BU4EE7CC837525;
- Toyota Camry (Sedan) 2013, 4T1BF1FK5DU271572;
- Toyota RAV4 (SUV) 2012, 2T3BFREV5DW024148;
- Toyota RAV4 (SUV) 2T3BFREV0DW024123;
- Nissan Altima (Sedan) 2013, 1N4AL3AP4DC178870;
- Nissan Altima (Sedan) 2013, 1N4AL3AP4DC212841;
- Hyundai Sonata (Sedan) 2011, 5NPEB4AC6BH019335;
- Hyundai Sonata (Sedan) 2013, 5NPEB4AC8DH737097.
- Toyota Camry (Sedan) 2014, Vin Number 4TBF1FK3EU373857;
- Toyota Camry (Sedan) 2014, 4T1BF1FK0EU828230;
- Toyota Camry (Sedan) 2013, 4T1BF1FKODU680157;
- Nissan Rogue (SUV) 2014, Vin Number JN8ASKRFH5E5063281;
- Chrysler L300 (Sedan) 2015 Vin Number 2C3CCAAG7FH810451;
- Nissan Sentra(Sedan) 2015 Vin Number 3N1AB7AP4FL663816;
- Nissan Pathfinder (SUV) 2014 Vin Number 5N1AR2MMXEC722872;
- Mercedes GLK 350 (SUV) 2013 Vin Number WDCGG8JB5DG110686;
- Nissan Rogue (SUV) 2015 Vin JN8AS5MV9FW764487;
- Toyota 4Runner (SUV) 2014 Vin Number JTEBU5JR4E5170620;
- Toyota 4Runner (SUV) 2015 Vin Number JTEBU5JR2F523478.

Investigators say the car theft enterprise has become a commonplace in Liberia involving well-placed personalities within customs and the community, an embodiment and thriving criminal ring now roams freely with their spoils, as evident by the kinds of imports a mixture of luxury and middle level vehicles.

As a result of the scheme FrontPageAfrica has learned that the Liberia Revenue Authority, looking to tackle shortfall of government revenue, during the last quarter of 2015/2016, undertook an exercise within Monrovia and its environ under the code name Operation Increase Revenue.

It was under the exercise that investigators identified Used and Rental/Lease cars entities in a bid to determine their imports compliance to customs requirements.

Continued on the next page

IN THE NEWS

Liberia - A Hub For Stolen Vehicles From the United States (continued)

Car rental companies were then asked to submit their car Title Certificates, invoices, Bill of Lading, Import Permit Document (IPD), Delivery Order, Single Administration Document, Clean Report of Findings (CRF) and Payment Receipts.

ORAGON Not in Compliance

During the investigation it was discovered, that Oragon Rent-A-Car International, a subsidiary of Oragon Group, was found not to be in compliance.

The report identified enormous inconsistencies with their locally-purchased vehicles (listing submitted by Oragon), inventoried by US and subsequently submitted for verification through US law enforcement agencies to authenticate ownership.

"Alarming, these inconsistencies not only highlight losses to government revenue lapses in our system, but gravely exposes a threat to our country's national security through a robust and well-organized transnational crime ring whose sole purpose was to steal cars from within the United States of America," investigators found.

Oragon, according to the investigation is 60 percent owned by Dr. C. Nelson Oniyama, 25 percent owned by Mrs. Grace Oniyama, 10 percent owned by Mr. Alvin Oniyama and five percent owned by Mr. Arnold Oniyama.

The stolen vehicles, said to be valued close to US\$300,000, came through the Liberia port of entry and has become focus of both the US and Liberian governments.

The office of the Solicitor General of the Ministry of Justice, the Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA), National Security Agency (NSA), Liberia National Police (LNP), Ministry of Transport and the US Embassy near Monrovia are all part of the investigation.

Nevertheless, multiple sources confirmed to FPA that there appears to be a major cover up preventing major arrests relating to the scheme.

"These people have links with some powerful people, including the police, the courts and top people in government, this is why it is difficult to make major arrests or bring those involved to book," a source close to the investigation said Tuesday.

In order to be involved in overseas exportation, investigators say, theft rings require that a system exist in the destination country in order to receive and sell the stolen vehicles as well as return the profit to the US ring.

"As a result, overseas exportation tends to be dominated by ethnically-based groups that already have strong connections in their country of origin and are therefore able to ensure that the requisite structure is in place.

It is also possible, though less common, for groups domestic to US to develop international connections and become involved in the international trafficking of stolen vehicles."

Moreover, the report adds that established connection between the vehicle theft ring in the US and Liberia, has to do largely in part to Liberians holding US naturalization and/or residency, who have a stronger tie to their native country.

US Gunpoint victim Car in Liberia

In the case of the probe into Oragon, it was discovered that the vehicles that were stolen for export overseas were all loaded into shipping containers and accompanied by false documentation claiming the container holds a different type of cargo.

Arguably, this investigation, shows that the organized crime groups may have a link to a port in the form of individuals in key positions who are influential in the movement of commercial cargo off a vessel and within the port environment-evident-the seven stolen vehicles in September 2017.

The investigation uncovered the importation of three vehicles in 2012, the purported time the syndicate started.

Continued on the next page

IN THE NEWS

Liberia - A Hub For Stolen Vehicles From the United States (continued)

"More intriguing about one of the vehicles shipped, has to do with the manner through which it was stolen.

According to Philadelphia Police Department Investigation Report, the vehicle, an Acura MDX(2008) with VIN Number 2HNYD28638H546417, was taken from the owner at gun point.

Such an attempt underscores the measure and approach deployed by this organization crime ring to obtain vehicles at all cost with a total disregard for human life. Investigators believe this may have been a tried-testing the system planting the seed for more elaborate enterprise."

The investigators noted that after a careful review of the intricacy of the documents accompanying the inaugural importation showed the boldness of the criminals involved with this shipment.

A total of 14 vehicles ranging from mid-size sedan to high end luxury cars will sail the high seas for markets in Liberia-buyers clearly identified. "One can safely argue that well-saturated -and planted seeds have been anchored-a-clear indication of the prevalence of organized vehicle theft ring about to explore on the soil of Liberia.

Notably, on this shipment, the criminals used the "Duty Free" privilege of returnee Horatio Bernard, to conceal and import a stolen Toyota 4Runner SUV.

Our investigation established that the stolen vehicle did not belong to Mr. Bernard, as evident by the transaction documents. And such a clever scheme must have raised an alarm throughout CBO – Freeport.

But again, some custom folks have already signed unto the criminal enterprise-facilitating their transit.

Investigators noted that the major push for the number of vehicles, coincided with the opening of Oragon Rent-A-Car International in 2013.

"Our folks at Customs according to our investigation did not exercise due diligence in ensuring that proper controls were put in place-verification and ascertaining rightfully ownership documents of the vehicles on these manifests.

More than that, there is absolutely no evidence to suggest that mechanisms were put in place to mitigate an influx of stolen vehicles through our major port of entry-Freeport as a stream of stolen vehicles will continue well over three years."

In 2014, another investigation established that one vehicle was shipped – a high dollar value.

"However, such a low number may suggest that those behind this criminal enterprise were testing the pulse of our security sector, knowing that we were just gradually making a transition from war to peace, with a heavy international security presence," the report noted.

LFA Boss Clarifies; Another Lawmaker Linked

Investigators report that 2016 saw the highest quantity and quality of vehicles.

However, a particular shipment during the course of 2016 raised heightened concern.

One of the containers included vehicles belonging to Representative Henry B. Fahnbulleh (UP, Montserrado County). Fahnbulleh, according to one of the investigators sought the investigator's help in letting the container leave the port to be offloaded at his home.

Upon further investigation it was determined that the vehicle was actually a stolen vehicle from the US associated with key players in the in the investigation: Mrs. Cecelia Dixon McGill, CBO Collector, Kandakai Sherman, James Mulbah, Armstrong Campbell, Sheriff Lasedu, Hon Henry B. Fahnbulleh and Dr. C. Nelson Oniyama-end recipient - Oragon Rent-A-Car International.

These vehicles will eventually end up unto the business venture of Oragon Rent-A-Car International.

Continued on the next page

IN THE NEWS

Liberia - A Hub For Stolen Vehicles From the United States (continued)

The investigation further identified three additional submissions by Oragon Rent-A-Car International, without customs documents, yet, with purchase documents affixed.

"Interestingly, one of the vehicles herein: BMW/X5/2014/5UXKR0C59E0H28463, ownership was swiped between Sam Gibson and Musa H. Bility, President of the Liberia Football Association, according to documents submitted. That vehicle along with an Acura MDX, SUV 2008 with vin number 2HNYD28638H546417 and Toyota Camry (Sedan) 20134T1BF1FK0DU680157

Fahnbulleh acknowledged his involvement in securing one of the vehicles, but said he later discovered that it was a scheme designed to dupe him.

Inquiries Dr. Oniyama came up empty as FPA was told that he was out of the country. LFA chief Musa Bility when contacted acknowledged owning the BMW but said he turned it over once it became clear it had been stolen.

"Some time ago, I realized that a BMW I was using was stolen. I immediately informed the ministry finance (ALFREDA) and formally turned over the Vehicle to the US Embassy. This is a matter of record."

"Today every Vehicle I use in Liberia is purchased brand new through an authorized dealer," Mr. Bility said, in response to an inquiry seeking a response Tuesday.

It can be recalled that in May 2016, another lawmaker, Acarous Moses Gray (CDC, Montserrado) was engulfed in a stolen car controversy. The lawmaker, however, denied the report suggesting that the courts had cleared the vehicle.

"I was aware that the Police and the courts had earlier cleared the vehicle. I didn't pay a dime for that car the Police spokesman lied that I purchased the vehicle."

Added Rep. Gray: "If the court clears the car and I want to buy it; it's no crime in Liberia. You can buy a car from anywhere," Rep. Gray said at the time.

Stolen Cars Tied to Philadelphia

The investigators found that most of the stolen vehicles are associated with the US City of Philadelphia where a large group of Liberians resides, making it easy for those connected to have established links-ease of movement and markets. Interestingly, a lot of those vehicles have been tied to the 2013 opening of Oragon and in 2015.

Last October, authorities in the US city of Philadelphia announced more than two dozen arrests after a multi-year investigation targeting a major car theft ring.

Investigators say the crime ring operated by replacing the vehicle identification numbers (VINs) on stolen rental cars, then selling the stolen cars to unsuspecting customers. Police say the thieves changed the VIN number to match the VIN of a junked, salvaged car they bought at auction to cover up the theft.

'Persons of Interests' Being Eyed

In Liberia, the latest wave of investigations has prompted authorities of the Liberia Revenue Authority to unveil a "Persons of Interest" list including all those who have eyed or linked to stolen vehicles from the US.

Investigators also noted that when in a bid to ascertain the statuses of the vehicles inventoried at Oragon Rent-A-Car International, for revenue related matters, they sought the assistance of US law enforcement agencies, through the US Embassy near Monrovia, to help in identifying the disposition of each vehicle.

"Our resourcefulness at ensuring that the basis for the exercise was sustained, it was confirmed that 39 vehicles were identified by US law enforcement agencies as stolen.

Subsequently, the investigation was also able to identify individuals/businesses whose behaviors /activities requires additional questioning by the Liberia National Police, National Security Agency and the Office of the Solicitor General of Liberia."

Continued on the next page

IN THE NEWS

Liberia - A Hub For Stolen Vehicles From the United States (continued)

Due to the level of coercion on the part of those involved in this transnational syndicate, both local and international, a thorough investigation into the role and / or involvement of each individual/collectively must be carefully examine, so as to establish the motive, depth of the crime and particularly, the sources of funding.

In this light, the following names have been identified as Persons of Interest in the investigation.

Dr. C. Nelson Oniyama, Majority owner of Oragon and Managing Director of the Monrovia Brewery, Mrs Grace Oniyama, Mr. Alvin Oniyama, Mr. Arnold Oniyama, Hon. Henry B. Fahnbulleh (Member/House of Representative), Dominic Nimley (Dominic and Son, Inc./Capitol Bye Pass/DL#: 0053705, Joseph King, Armstrong Tony Campbell (US Citizen), Ephraim Onohehe, General Manager/ Oragon Rent-A-Car International, David Hope Kanu (Oragon Rent-A-Car International (noted also as a seller), Sheriff Lasedu (US Exporter/Philadelphia, Pennsylvania), Mrs. Cecelia Dixon-McGill (Custom Collector), Jomah K. McKay/Gaye Town, Old Road, Sinkor and Wilhemina Mulbah, a resident of Monrovia. Others include: John Paul/ East Coast Shipping Liberia LTD, Sam M. Gibson, Musa H. Bility, President, Liberia Football Association, Mary George, Anthony O. Gbaye, Atlantic Corporation Limited/Broad and Warren Streets, James Mulbah (Customs Examiner) Abel Sonkalay (Custom Examiner) Kandakai Sherman (Custom Assessor), ASYCUDA Technical Support Team (Freeport).

'Difficulties Obtaining Proof'

Investigators cited a previous investigative report in October 2016 noting many shortfalls of efforts to combat organized crimes, particularly car theft/importation, which were used as a basis for recommendation for change. The most significant recommendations can be grouped into the following categories: Proof, resources, coordination and prosecution.

ASIS International, the leading organization for security professionals worldwide, found that during the September 2016 investigation, that there were some "difficulties in obtaining proof" in organized crime investigations-particularly those involving the exchange of money-bribery.

ASIS found that prior to the seven reported stolen vehicles in September 2016, there was an apparent "lack of coordination" among investigators of organized crimes. It was found that agencies did not cooperate with each other in preparing cases, and they do not exchange information from each other.

The threat of police corruption in organized crime cases results in officers and agencies that do not trust each other. Additionally, jurisdictional problems and the failure to develop strategic intelligence are cited as continuing problems.

Once strategic intelligence is developed it would enable agencies to predict what directions organized crimes might take, which industries it might try to penetrate, and how it might infiltrate.

The need for a special prosecutor, additional assistance from foreign partners, particularly the United States.

Lack of Cooperation Hurt Curbing Effort

The reported documented that there were instances of noncooperation between the broker and, as well as reluctance of customs assessors to fully provide information requested by ASIS.

As a result, ASIS recommended that all containers containing vehicles coming through customs be held at DI Site pending verification of status by ASIS, amendment must receive senior management (preferably assistant commissioner for ports approval and supporting documents attached and consignee/Broker must present customs with actual Title to the vehicles.

Investigators added that the scale, complexity and entrenched nature of this criminal enterprise, requires a methodical approach at prosecution.

"Areas of concern: Assets (thorough investigation into how these players acquired their respective/collective assets), Finances (Bank Accounts)- freezing of their financial accounts.

We strongly recommend that GOL must take this matter very seriously, as it tends to undermine the legitimacy of our political and economic systems – altering our way of life, as well as the country's security."

Source: <http://www.frontpageafricaonline.com/index.php/business/4504-liberia-a-hub-for-stolen-vehicles-from-the-united-states>

IN THE NEWS

Thailand: Hunt on for stolen UK cars theft

By Piyanuch Tamnukasetchai, The Nation, May 27, 2017

More than 40 luxury cars have been stolen from Britain and sent to Thailand, according to Thai and British authorities. Of them, at least three have already been sold to buyers who may not know about the illegal background of the dream cars.

Thailand's Department of Special Investigation (DSI) launched an investigation to locate the stolen vehicles after being contacted by Britain's National Vehicle Crime Intelligence Service.

Department of Special Investigation (DSI) deputy chief Pol Lt-Colonel Korrawat Panprapakorn tells a press conference yesterday about progress in the investigation into allegations of import-duty evasion by car importers and dealers.

"By now, we have found that three of the stolen cars have already been sold," DSI deputy chief Pol Lt-Colonel Korrawat Panprapakorn said yesterday. He said they were two BMW M4s and one Porsche Cayenne.

He said six other stolen cars had already been impounded from suspected wrongdoers by authorities. One stolen Porsche Boxster was still parked in the Customs Department's Duty-Free Zone.

"We will try to locate the rest," he said.

British authorities told the DSI that the luxury cars were bought through car loans, with buyers paying just a few instalments before shipping the cars to Thailand and lodging a car-theft complaint in the UK to claim insurance compensations, Korrawat said.

The DSI and the Customs Department have now joined forces in investigating allegations of import-duty evasion by car importers and dealers going back five years.

DSI chief Pol Colonel Paisit Wongmuang told the press conference yesterday that 160 cars had been impounded after two previous raids.

Raids at nine locations on May 18 resulted in the seizure of 122 luxury vehicles from Niche Car Group showrooms. On May 24, 38 luxury cars were confiscated after raids at six locations.

As the vehicle importers allegedly quoted much lower prices, it was estimated that the cars – including brands such as Lamborghini, Rolls-Royce, Aston Martin and Ferrari – evaded the high customs duty of 300 per cent which could mean the country suffered Bt3 billion in lost revenue.



Continued on the next page

IN THE NEWS

Thailand: Hunt on for stolen UK cars theft (continued)

Investigators were still gathering evidence and related documents seized from the importers and dealers to determine if the cars evaded tax. Paisit said the lengthy investigation stemmed from an incident in 2013 when luxury cars caught fire during transportation in Nakhon Ratchasima's Kalng Dong district. He said the DSI and Customs would work together to determine the unpaid tax amount, the criminal prosecutions that might be involved and the legal proceeding.

Customs Department Director-General Kulis Sombatsiri said that the two agencies would join forces to look at car imports to Thailand over the past five years that may be involved in tax evasion and vehicle theft. Korrawat said the DSI had not determined if any of the importers and dealers had broken the law but would proceed with legal actions against those deemed law violators.

Asked why Customs released cars with so-low declared prices out, Kulis said the agency would generally believe and accept the prices as stated in the submitted invoices from importers. He also admitted that some Customs officials were being investigated by the Office of the National Anti-Corruption Commission, the result of which would be released in September. Kulis said the new Customs Act which was due to come into effect in November, would be helpful in preventing such crime. It would allow goods passing through Thailand to be held for 30 days before going on to a destination country or being taken out and taxed for sale in Thailand – or else it would be confiscated as the country's assets.

Source: <http://www.nationmultimedia.com/news/national/30316441>

TAKING PLACE ON AFRICAN SOIL FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME



65TH IAATI
INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL
TRAINING SEMINAR

REGISTRATION CLOSES

31 JULY 2017



SPACE IS LIMITED



GET ON THE

THE ROAD TO CHANGE

BY JOINING THE DRIVE TO ELIMINATE VEHICLE CRIME.

 **CENTURY CITY
CONFERENCE CENTRE**

27 AUGUST – 1 SEPTEMBER 2017



400+

DELEGATES

5

DAYS



30

HIGH LEVEL
PLENARY
SPEAKERS

1 EXHIBITION

WWW.IAATI2017.CO.ZA

THE PROGRAMME HAS BEEN DESIGNED TO INCLUDE 'BIG PICTURE' EXECUTIVE LEVEL PLENARY SESSIONS AS WELL AS HANDS ON PRACTICAL TRAINING SESSIONS.

TOPICS INCLUDE:






- The Economic Aspect of Vehicle Crime
- The Vulnerability of Today's Car: Vehicle System Hacking
- How Crime Mapping, Linkage Analysis and Environmental Assessment can assist in the Prevention of Vehicle Crime
- Development in the field of GPS Location
- E Natis: Friend or Foe
- Vehicles and Terrorism: the Vehicle as a Currency for Crime
- Intelligent LPR
- Cross Border Vehicle Crime: International Perspective and Best Practice
- Asset Forfeiture - Vehicle Crime
- Truck Hijacking and Cargo Freight Theft
- Cross Border Vehicle Crime: A Local Perspective
- Advance Telematics technology in the Short Term Insurance Industry
- Organised Vehicle Crime: The Brazen Syndicates
- The Role of the Media in the fight against Vehicle Crime
- The Role of Technology in the fight against Vehicle Crime
- Vehicle Finance Fraud
- Vehicle Jamming
- Insurance Fraud and the Power of Data



To register or for more information, visit www.iaati2017.co.za

IN THE NEWS

UK: 'How I could have stolen my old car using my smartphone'

By Matthew Wall, bbc.co.uk, 20 June 2017

Charles Henderson loved his "awesome" convertible, particularly the fact that he could start, lock and unlock it remotely via his mobile phone.

It was one of the first connected cars that synchronise wirelessly with smartphones for entertainment and work purposes.

But after he sold the vehicle, he was astonished to discover that he could still control it using the associated smartphone app.

"I could have found out where the car was, unlocked it remotely, started it and driven off with it," he tells the BBC.

Mr Henderson, from Austin, Texas, is global head of X-Force Red, IBM's offensive security group, so he knows a thing or two about security. He tests companies' defences, both physical and digital.



Charles Henderson found he still had smartphone access to his old car even though he'd sold it

"We try to think like a criminal without actually acting like one," he says. "It's the coolest job in the world."

So before selling his car back to the dealer he was sure to carry out a factory reset and wipe any personal data from the car's on-board computer. He didn't want the new owner getting access to his calendar, contacts and phone records.

He then bought a new connected car made by the same manufacturer and was amazed when his old car still appeared alongside his new car on the app.

"These IoT [internet of things] devices are really smart but they're not smart enough to know that you've sold them," he says.

"I informed the car dealership but they didn't know how to handle this. So we went to the car manufacturer and it took a while before they took it seriously. They found it really difficult to cut off access."

The issue of personal data being left behind in devices we rent or own poses a serious risk - hackers could get access to it and use it for blackmail purposes or to steal our money using cloned identities.

"When they rent a car, many drivers sync their phones to the on-board Bluetooth without thinking that the data will stay in the car's computer. And they won't even think about clearing it before handing it back," says Mr Henderson.

"Yet they could be revealing sensitive corporate or private data unwittingly."

Ian Fogg, principal analyst at research firm IHS Markit, says: "Your smartphone is now the hub for a range of experiences, whether that's in your connected car or your smart home.

"So it's a really critical to protect your data, and when selling it - or the devices it has synced with - to make sure all personal information is thoroughly removed from it."

Richard Stiennon is chief strategy officer for Blancco Technology Group, a company that specialises in data erasure.

He admits that deleting this data is easier said than done.

Continued on the next page

IN THE NEWS

UK: 'How I could have stolen my old car using my smartphone' (continued)

"Simply going into a car's settings and deleting your phone from the list of previously paired Bluetooth devices does not guarantee that this will overwrite the data on the car's storage device," Mr Stiennon says.

"It will only prevent casual hackers like the next renter from seeing it. A better option is to overwrite all user data or perform a factory reset - if the vehicle allows it - to ensure the data is 100% erased and cannot be recovered."

Erasing data from a connected car is more difficult to do than on laptops, removable drives and mobiles. When you think about all the different car makes and models, each with their own operating systems and apps, syncing with so many different phone types, which also have their own versions of operating systems, complexity and lack of standards is the order of the day.

Toby Poston, director of communications and external relations for the BVRLA (British Vehicle Rental and Leasing Association) says: "Each individual has the responsibility for making sure that their data is erased, but car makers could make it easier.

"Our members manage millions of hire cars and company cars and we would like to see all manufacturers introduce a 'data cleanse' button to their vehicles as well as enabling this to be done remotely."

There are also cyber-security, as well as data protection, issues.

"If the driver's mobile network is infected with malware, it could access private information and copy it back to the car's infotainment system," says Mr Stiennon.

"This could lead to sensitive information like financial details, social security numbers and usernames and passwords being accessed and potentially breached."

It's also possible that an infected car could pass on the infection to your phone.

The data we share with our cars has value, which is why there is such a battle raging over who should control it and have access to it.

Mr Stiennon cites the recent case of three employees of Enterprise-Rent-A-Car in the UK who stole the details of tens of thousands of the company's customers and sold the data on to "ambulance-chasing" accident claims companies.

So the next time you hire a connected car it might be worth asking the rental provider what data removal options they provide and whether they can give you written proof that your personal data has been successfully and totally erased.

"When I resell my car, the manufacturer isn't involved in the exchange so isn't focused on the second user experience," says IBM's Mr Henderson.

"Although they are beginning to take this issue more seriously, it has to be everyone in the industry - not just the major players. The roads are not brand specific."

A report into Connected and Autonomous Vehicles (CAVs) commissioned by the UK's Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders concluded that "the collection and use of data by CAVs is not a matter of significant concern for consumers.

But how do we know consumers don't seem that bothered simply because they don't yet understand the implications?

"What happens when you get ransomware on your car and you can't drive to work that day?" warns Mr Henderson.

What indeed.

Source: <http://www.bbc.com/news/business-40324983>

IN THE NEWS

USA: Legislators push to redirect auto theft prevention funding back to agency

By Jackie Wang, www.texastribune.org, May 9, 2017

Every year, Texans pay a \$2 fee toward auto theft prevention on their automobile insurance, but most of the money isn't going to the agency it's being collected for. Instead, the Legislature has used much of the money to help balance the budget.

The Automobile Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority is funded through those insurance fees and gives grants to task forces and law enforcement agencies focused on reducing vehicle theft. But the agency lost its dedicated fund — which set aside money solely for its functions — in 1997, when the Legislature began diverting the money for other purposes. In 2011, the Legislature raised the fee from \$1 to \$2 and dedicated half to the authority and half to the state's general revenue fund, but four years later, lawmakers were siphoning off most of the new money too: 2015 numbers show that of the \$42 million collected for auto theft prevention, the authority received less than \$15 million.

State Rep. Travis Clardy, R-Nacogdoches authored House Bill 652 to give the full \$2 to the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles and shield it from other uses.

"The simple fact remains that this is a worthwhile program and we collect the fees," Clardy said. "I've got this crazy notion that if we collect a fee for a particular purpose, we ought to actually spend the money for that purpose."

Sen. Kirk Watson, D-Austin, who authored a similar bill in the Senate, chastised those in charge of appropriations for not allocating auto theft prevention funding as originally intended.

Continued on the next page



Graphic Credit: Tim Park for The Texas Tribune

IN THE NEWS

USA: Legislators push to redirect auto theft prevention funding back to agency (continued)

"For years, those in control of the Capitol have misled the public and deprived funding to important state programs by hoarding dedicated taxes and fees that are used to help balance the budget — and the ABTPA revenue is a classic example," Watson said in an email. "ABTPA hasn't received its full appropriation since 1997 because budget-writers have relied upon the revenue to help pay for general revenue-related expenses."

Both bills were left pending in committee.

Supporters of the bill argue auto theft is connected to many other types of crime and is intertwined with border security problems as well. Lt. Mike Rodriguez, commander of the Laredo Police Department Auto Theft Division, said though Laredo was the No. 1 city for automobile theft in 2009, the city was able to drop ten spots in National Insurance Crime Bureau rankings by the next year. In the most recent statistics, Laredo ranked 137th in the nation.

Rodriguez credits ABTPA grants — \$635,000 a year to pay the salaries of five investigators and a supervisor — for the drop in auto theft. The police department is required to match 20 percent of the grant, and the city of Laredo provides even more money.

Rodriguez said the money is crucial for the task force, which receives anywhere from 30 to 40 new auto theft cases a week.

"The investigator has five days a week to go find video, interrogate suspects, find suspects, find evidence," he said. "It's a lot to handle, and the person who will suffer [if funding is cut] is the victim."

Lt. Tommy Hansen, who serves on the authority's board of directors, said the agency has already lost 30 investigators statewide out of 222 total, and under current budget proposals are poised to lose between six and 20 more. The House budget proposes a 4 percent cut to appropriations for ABTPA, while the Senate proposes a 10 percent cut.

Meanwhile, Hansen said the authority's responsibilities have grown. Before 2009, the Department of Public Safety oversaw auto inspections to check for stolen parts and legitimate VIN numbers, with investigators dedicated specifically to that task. When DPS merged its specialized units, it lost many of its auto theft inspectors and had to shift responsibility to the task forces funded by ABTPA.

In 2006, the authority was also given an unfunded mandate to investigate burglary of motor vehicles cases. And the whole time, Hansen said, the state froze their money while the agency lost people. That's why Hansen is frustrated that lawmakers are proposing further cuts to the authority's budget.

"The money is there [through auto insurance fees]," Hansen said. "That's the frustrating thing."

Clardy agreed. "This is a real moneymaker for the state. It deters crime, helps citizens recover their stolen property, helps our law enforcement solve crimes."

Source: <https://www.texastribune.org/2017/05/09/legislators-push-redirect-auto-theft-prevention-funding-back-agency/>

Latin American and South African Branch members:

Substantially cheaper membership fees are now available in your branches. Please contact your Branch President or Membership Secretary for more information on how you can save.

IN THE NEWS

USA: WSAZ Investigates: Car theft rings force police to change tactics

By Jatara McGee, wsaz.com, May 23, 2017

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (WSAZ) -- A WSAZ investigation has uncovered car theft rings with international ties operating in our region. Investigators estimate the thieves have already gotten away with millions so far in 2017.

Police say thieves are getting creative, working in groups and posing security threats to the public.

"Sometimes we see one or two or three a day," says Lt. Steve Cooper with Charleston Police.

For weeks, WSAZ has been tracking stolen vehicles and working with investigators from several agencies to better understand the trends, including the Kanawha County Sheriff's Office, Charleston Police Department, South Charleston Police Department, Boone County Sheriff's Office and West Virginia State Police, to name a few. Many of the thefts are not just singular in nature. Investigators have connected the cases in all of these areas to theft rings, some of which go outside the United States.

"We've actually tracked a few that's been shipped out of the country," says Cpl. Mitch Morgan with the Kanawha County Sheriff's Department.

Morgan is the lead investigator at the sheriff's office for this type of crime. He and Charleston Police Lt. Steve Cooper investigate hundreds of stolen vehicle cases each year for their respective organizations.

"We're finding them on driveways. We're finding them on the hillside. When ... guys are going out on their four-wheelers for the weekend on the mountainside, will find one burnt on up on the mountain or find one intact sitting up a hollow somewhere. We're finding them on bank parking lots, Wal-Mart parking lots, we're finding them everywhere," Morgan said.

Continued on the next page



IN THE NEWS

USA: WSAZ Investigates: Car theft rings force police to change tactics (continued)

Police tell WSAZ many of the vehicles they don't find are going to Pennsylvania, the Carolinas and other bordering states.

"The problem is nationwide. They network really well -- it's one person training another how to do it," Morgan said.

As a part of our investigation, WSAZ's Jatara McGee rode along with Charleston Police to better understand the problem. Within an hour, there was another victim and another car gone.

The victim in this case was from Ohio and in Charleston for business. "My car was parked there, right there on the corner. After the meeting I came out here, I started the car to let it cool off, and I walked literally a few feet away over to the parking lot to talk to some people. And when I turned around, in less than five minutes the car was gone," Ernie Delatore said.

We checked back with Delatore. His 2014 Buick Lacrosse car was found nearly a week later, without a license plate in a remote area of Kanawha County.

Not every victim is so lucky. Police say members of car theft rings sometimes ship newer vehicles overseas to places like Europe or China. They say some are also going south of the border to Mexico because the international market is much more lucrative.

For example, an \$11,000 family vehicle can be traded internationally for \$2,000 worth of drugs.

Tracking the thieves, police say, is difficult because they aren't following a pattern.

"It's very unpredictable. There's no certain part of town we're having more of a problem with them. If we have two stolen cars in one day, they may be 15 miles apart ... Sometimes it's from the driveway, sometimes it's from the supermarket parking lot, sometimes it's from a dealership," Cooper explained.

Police say since the thefts are unpredictable, finding stolen vehicles is more important.

Just a few months ago, police say they busted one theft ring that was operating in five West Virginia counties. Nearly a dozen people are now facing charges as a result.

WSAZ obtained court documents saying one of the ring leaders was found with more than a dozen stolen guns, drugs, U.S. and foreign currency.

Investigators say he also had evidence of thousands of dollars transferred through money wire to California, with documents written in Arabic.

Officers say that they've become more aggressive in looking for stolen vehicles in an effort to outpace the speed of criminals. Their tactics are new -- and not something they will reveal.

"It's is more dangerous, but we're ready for it," Morgan said.

As a result of the uptick in thefts, car dealership owners are spending tens of thousands of dollars to increase security. Police also remind people about common sense safety steps when it comes to their cars -- things like locking them, not leaving valuables in plain sight, or keys in the vehicle. They say all of those tips are priceless.

In the second part of the investigation, we take a closer look at a ring investigators say they have taken down.

The ring is responsible for victimizing dozens of people and stealing dozens of vehicles from car dealerships. Cars, trucks, SUVs, ATVs, and even excavators are among the loot swiped by the thieves.

Continued on the next page

IN THE NEWS

USA: WSAZ Investigates: Car theft rings force police to change tactics (continued)

"There was actually 12 total in this one ring and we worked it basically from the beginning to the end," says Deputy Mitch Morgan with the Kanawha County Sheriff's Office. Morgan is the lead investigator for car thefts at the sheriff's office and spent December and January, in particular, working to untangle a chaotic web of crimes connected to the crime theft ring.

Morgan says "In my career, this is probably the highest stolen vehicle rate we've ever seen."

The Kanawha County Sheriff's Office, South Charleston Police Department, West Virginia State Police and several other law enforcement agencies worked hand in hand to break down the ring and make the eleven arrests, as well as dozens of other arrests that came about during the lengthy investigation.

One of the crimes that helped investigators crack the case was a shooting caught on camera at a gas station in Lincoln County.

Investigators say Justin Gravely and Thomas Zirkle are responsible for the shooting and another one at a home in the same area. Both have been charged in the shooting, but it was two stolen ATV's, taken from the same victim as the shooting, that helped investigators connect the dots within the crime ring.

Another victim of the crime ring is a family living near the Charleston-South Charleston line. Their home was broken into late December while they were away on vacation. Their car was stolen and the home was burglarized.

Deputies say William Carter and Okey Justice stole a truck from a dealership in Kanawha County and used it to commit the burglary.

The family says their car was recovered but had been destroyed.

WSAZ obtained court documents that shed more light on the theft ring leaders like Norman Sweeny, known as "Blue."

He was one of the last arrests investigators made in the theft ring. It was a tip from another suspect that led investigators, including US Marshals and FBI agents to his front door.

A car theft ring suspect is on audio recording saying "all of the stolen cars and guns are going to Blue's house." Court documents say Sweeny speaks fluent Arabic and several other foreign languages. He was allegedly wiring \$1,000 money transfers to California and also goes by the alias "Noreen Ali."

Inside his trailer, police say they found thirteen guns, including assault rifles, even though Sweeny is a convicted felon and cannot legally have guns in his possession.

Investigators also say there were also boxes of ammunition in the home, thousands of dollars in cash, U.S. and foreign currency, a passport, Arabic writing documents, methamphetamine, pills and marijuana and envelope with several vehicle titles inside.

Deputies will not release if Sweeny is at the top of the crime ring but say when they do track down ringleaders, they find stolen guns and drugs, along with the stolen cars.

"It all goes up to a pyramid, and drugs is written on the top," Morgan tells WSAZ.

Investigators say as they rounded up eleven people said to be a part of the car theft ring, they made dozens of other arrests; either connected to the individuals or committing similar crimes.

Investigators say the following people each played a role in the crime ring. Their charges range from grand larceny to being a felon in possession of firearms.

Continued on the next page

IN THE NEWS

USA: WSAZ Investigates: Car theft rings force police to change tactics (continued)

Okey Justice Jr., 46, was arrested by South Charleston Police and is facing charges in Kanawha County.

Theodore "TJ" Gravely, Jr., 33, was arrested by South Charleston Police and is facing charges in Kanawha County.

William "Billy" Carter, 44, was arrested by Kanawha County Sheriff's deputies and is facing charges in Kanawha County.

Mark Cantrell, 40, was arrested by Kanawha County Sheriff's deputies and is facing charges in Kanawha County.

Duane "DJ" Tackett, 26, was arrested by Kanawha County Sheriff's deputies and is facing charges in Kanawha County.

Norman "Blue" Sweeney, 44, was arrested by Kanawha County Sheriff's deputies and is facing charges in Kanawha County. He has previous charges in Charleston, West Virginia and a lengthy criminal history in San Diego, California, including vehicle theft and drug charges.

Warren Binion, 36, was arrested by Kanawha County Sheriff's deputies and is facing charges in Kanawha County.

Thomas "TC" Zirkle, 22, was arrested by West Virginia State Police in Lincoln County and is facing charges there.

Justin Gravely, 26, was arrested by West Virginia State Police in Lincoln County and is facing charges there.

Winfield "Scotty" Bowles, 55, was arrested by Boone County Sheriff's deputies and is facing charges in Boone County.

Sherry Kersey, 49, was arrested by Boone County Sheriff's deputies and is facing charges in Boone County.

There is an active warrant out for the last of the dozen suspects. The investigation into this particular ring and its possible connections beyond state lines is ongoing.

Local investigators say FBI and ATF agents, as well as U.S. Marshals are also involved in the theft ring investigation.

Source: <http://www.wsaz.com/content/news/WSAZ-Investigates--Car-theft-rings-force-police-to-change-tactics-424206854.html> and <http://www.wsaz.com/content/news/WSAZ-Investigates-Car-Theft-Rings-Part-2-Taking-down-a-ring-424235583.html>



IN THE NEWS

Australia: Victoria's booming black market in stolen cars targeted by new laws

By Aisha Dow, *The Age*, May 26 2017

Victoria's booming black market in stolen cars could be disrupted by a plan to hide small tracking devices on vehicles and new laws to tackle "rogue" scrap metal dealers with organised crime links.

Almost 24,000 cars were stolen in Victoria last year, an average of about one theft for every 250 people.

Victoria Police Assistant Commissioner Robert Hill said about 30 per cent of stolen vehicles were never recovered.

"The large proportion [of stolen vehicles] have either been shipped overseas as an entire vehicle, or they've been dismantled in parts and shipped overseas," Mr Hill said.

"There are also vehicles that have been sold via the scrap industry where there has been a profit made by those car thieves, but also by some rogue dealers within the industry that have allowed this to flourish."

In an effort to combat the illegal trade, the Andrews Government has introduced new laws banning businesses from taking cash payments for scrap metal.

The dealers will have to keep records of all transactions involving scrap metal, and businesses will face fines of up to \$31,000 if they are found in possession of an unidentified vehicle.

"What we do know is cash in this industry can drive both motor vehicle theft and other metal thefts, for example from railway stations," Police Minister Lisa Neville said.

She said the fine of \$31,000 was three-times higher than similar penalties in New South Wales.

"I think we need a deterrent," Ms Neville said.

She said the government would investigate if further regulations were needed to target car wreckers and second-hand car dealers.

Victoria Police, meanwhile, announced it would install a fleet of cars with small tracking devices, so that the cars can be located by police using GPS technology in the event of them being stolen.

The pilot program with the National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council will be trialled on about 1000 vehicles.

"This is a technology that can be rolled out fairly simply, fairly cheaply across the network," Mr Hill said.

"If this technology was rolled out across the Victorian fleet we would see vehicle theft reduce dramatically.

"I'm not saying it will eliminate it completely, but certainly it will provide a very strong deterrent factor for people considering stealing motorcars."

Source: <http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/victorias-booming-black-market-in-stolen-cars-targeted-by-new-laws-20170525-gwdgj0.html>



The Andrews Government has introduced new laws banning businesses from taking cash payments for scrap metal.

IN THE NEWS

Australia: Motor Vehicle Theft—Perception v's Reality

The National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council has released the latest Australian motor vehicle theft statistics for the 12 months ending 31 March 2017.

Total motor vehicle theft in Australia improved marginally in the March quarter delivering an 8 per cent increase for the 12 months to March 2017, down from the 10 per cent experienced in the 12 months to December 2016. With 57,173 vehicles stolen, national volumes are 7 per cent less than five years ago. Both short term and profit motivated passenger/light commercial (PLC) thefts remain the drivers for the increase offset by a small decrease in motorcycle theft. Declines in NSW continue to offset increases in most other jurisdictions.

Source: https://carsafe.com.au/assets/NMVTRC_Theft_Watch_Issue_62-correct.pdf

To see the full range of Australian motor vehicle theft statistics visit: <https://carsafe.com.au/statistics> Use the public dashboard tool to quickly visualise key national and state/territory statistics with interactive tables and drilldown charts. See current trends along with what is stolen, when and where.



About

Work in progress

Publications

Statistics

Resources



Dashboard



AUS Total thefts All motor vehicles 12 Months: Completed vs previous

1. National context 2. Trend over time 3. What was stolen? 4. Where were they stolen? 5. When were they stolen?

1.1 AUS - Motor vehicle theft summary, 2015-04 to 2017-03								
State or Territory	2015-04 to 2016-03		2016-04 to 2017-03		% change	Theft rate per 1,000 registrations		
	Thefts	% of thefts	Thefts	% of thefts		2015-04 to 2016-03	2016-04 to 2017-03	
ACT	906	1.7	1,111	1.9	22.6% ▲	3.16	3.79	
NSW	12,475	23.6	11,986	21.0	-3.9% ▼	2.32	2.18	
NT	1,027	1.9	1,153	2.0	12.3% ▲	6.51	7.16	
QLD	8,592	16.2	10,616	18.6	23.6% ▲	2.11	2.55	
SA	3,132	5.9	3,290	5.8	5.0% ▲	2.16	2.29	
TAS	1,241	2.3	1,278	2.2	3.0% ▲	2.66	2.72	
VIC	16,670	31.5	19,362	33.9	16.1% ▲	3.43	3.88	
WA	8,832	16.7	8,377	14.7	-5.2% ▼	3.89	3.67	
AUS	52,875	100.0	57,173	100.0	8.1% ▲	2.79	2.97	

*Short term thefts are defined as motor vehicles that were stolen and recovered, profit motivated thefts were those stolen and not recovered. Recovery status is as at 30 April 2017 for all states/territories except for TAS which is at 31 March 2017.

Recovery data used in this report has been adjusted for the number of missing vehicles that are expected to be recovered up to a year after the close of the data period. This adjustment has the effect of moving a percentage of vehicles from the profit motivated (not recovered category) to the short term (recovered category) in the last period.

The National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council (NMVTRC) acknowledges all police services, registration authorities, participating insurers, the Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries, Glass's Information Services and Insurance Australia Group for the supply of the data on which this report is compiled. Theft incident data may be subject to later revision by the data providers. This work is copyright. Material may be reproduced for personal, non-commercial use or for use within your organisation with attribution to the NMVTRC (carsafe.com.au). © 2017 NMVTRC. All rights reserved.

IN THE NEWS

Australia: Motor Vehicle Theft—Perception vs Reality

In July issue of Theft Matters the National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council reveal 10 perceptions people have regarding vehicle theft and whether they are in fact correct or not. You may be quite surprised by the real figures. Click perception vs reality (PDF 232 KB) to find out if you have the same views and also to gain insight into the evidence behind the facts.

Source: https://carsafe.com.au/assets/Theft_Matters_May_2017.pdf



IN THE NEWS

Australia: Motor Vehicle Theft—Perception vs Reality (continued)

4 My car is secured with an immobiliser



75% of cars stolen have an immobiliser.

While the theft rate of cars with immobilisers is significantly lower than cars without an immobiliser, it is also important to protect your car keys at all times.

5 Even if my vehicle gets stolen, I should get it back



1 in 5 cars are never recovered



More than half of **motorcycles** don't get recovered (**53%**)



6 It won't happen to me



1 in 163

Australian households fall victim to motor vehicle theft each year.

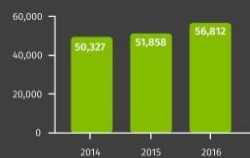
7 Isn't vehicle theft declining?



Overall vehicle thefts declined between 2001 and 2014:

> Since 2014, PLC and motorcycle thefts have increased 14%

> Every 10 minutes a vehicle gets stolen in Australia



8 Car theft is not as important as other 'serious' crimes



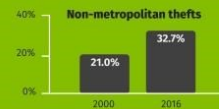
Vehicles are stolen for use in the commission of another crime such as **armed robberies, break and enters, terrorism or to trade for drugs.**

Vehicle theft with force, or carjacking, also occurs. This is a serious crime and can be very traumatic for the victim.

9 Car theft is only a big city problem

Over the years, there has been an increase in the number of vehicles stolen from non-metropolitan regions.

In 2016, **1 in 3 vehicles (33%)** were stolen from a non-metropolitan region compared to **1 in 5 (21%)** vehicles in 2000.



10 I don't own a luxury or sports car so my car is safe

While some sports, luxury and high performance vehicles have higher theft rates, the most common theft targets in 2016 were:

- Holden Commodore** (4,224 thefts)
- Ford Falcon** (1,958 thefts)
- Toyota Hilux** (1,931 thefts)
- Nissan Pulsar** (1,639 thefts)
- Toyota Corolla** (1,405 thefts)

Now that you know the facts: what can you do?



Enhance your home's security - a **secure home means a secure car**

Safeguard your keys - they are worth as much as the value of your car



For more advice on reducing your risk of becoming a victim of vehicle theft

visit www.carsafe.com.au



IN THE NEWS

New Zealand Police's Newest Recruit Is A Guinea Pig Unit

Written By Megan Sutton, 3 May 2017

Constable Elliot is the cutest cop we've ever seen

You may be accustomed to seeing animals like horses and dogs flanking police officers the world over, but did you know the latest crime-stopping animal taking the Internet by storm is a whole lot smaller and fluffier than we're used to seeing.

Meet Constable Elliot, New Zealand Police's latest recruit.

The police force recently started sharing posts of Elliot, a four-year-old guinea pig who wears a police hat and poses for pictures to raise awareness of issues affecting the area.

In one Facebook post he can be seen reminding the people of New Zealand to keep their cars locked to prevent vehicle theft.

Elliot also warned drivers to take care on the roads and ensure they obey speed limits.



Of course, the guinea pig is merely a mascot for the force, but judging by the fact he's being discussed by news outlets and social media users across the world – the publicity move is working.

We can see why, given Elliot is probably the cutest thing we've ever seen.

According to BBC, the guinea pig is the pet of someone in the police media team.

"[We] are always looking at new ways to communicate with the public and promote messaging as quickly and as efficiently as possible," the force said.

Worried Elliot is all work and no play now he's a copper? Don't fret.

New Zealand Police told BBC he spends 'a lot of his spare time grazing on grass, green vegetables and hay at home, and getting cuddles from his family.'

Altogether now: 'Awwww!'

IN THE NEWS

USA: Buy a Yeti to protect your car, Miami police say in parody video Unit

By Fox News, June 28, 2017

You've heard of the "long arm of the law?" Miami police want you to meet the "Bigfoot."

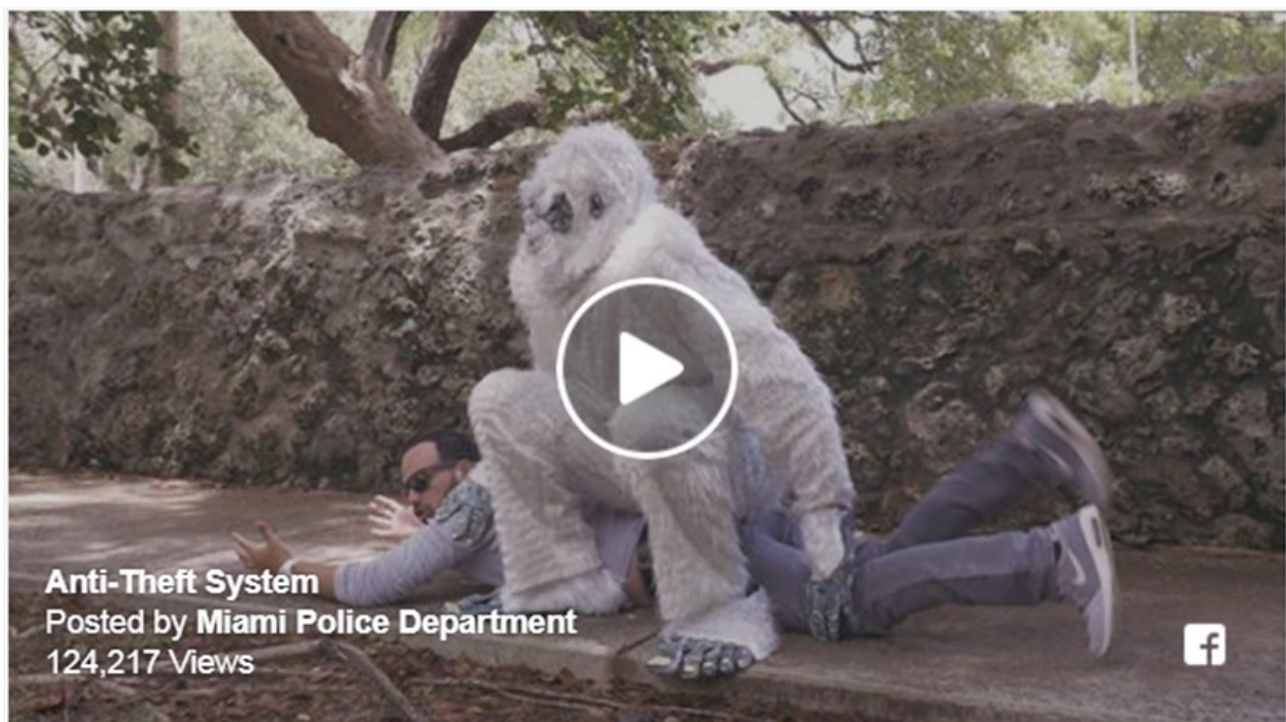
The Miami Police Department has posted a parody video to tout its anti-car theft program, and the star is a Yeti.

The tongue-in-cheek crime-fighting technique is known by the affectionate acronym KRAPPY, which stands for "Keeping Robbers Away and Protecting Property with a Yeti."

Miami police explain how the program works in the video saying, "Every time you step away from your vehicle, you should leave your yeti behind."

At the end of the video, Miami PD warns viewers that, "The Yeti is a fictional character and he/she will not actually protect your property."

In a slightly more serious moment, police told WFTS it is a pilot program and that they are still "working out some kinks."



To view the video click: <https://www.facebook.com/MiamiPoliceDepartment/videos/1431137366976802/>

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/us/2017/06/28/buy-yeti-to-protect-your-car-miami-police-say-in-parody-video.html>

TRAINING & TOOLS

Training is one of the most important areas that we as auto theft investigators need to continually seek out. With the trends in auto theft changing on a daily basis, we need to stay on top of these new developments that can assist us with prevention, identification, investigation, and prosecution. If you know of any other auto theft courses that are being offered, please contact Denny Roske at: iaatidenny@aol.com IAATI will also post course announcements on our web site & the IAATI e-news during the year. Always check the IAATI web site for training information at: iaati.org The following auto theft training courses are being offered at this time:

Conferences and Training Seminars

2017 Training:

NICB on-line training website	Continuous	www.NICBTraining.org	Click on: courses
65th Annual International Seminar	Aug. 27th – 1st Sept	Cape Town, South Africa	Daan Nel dnel@tracker.co.za
Western Regional Chapter & Western State Auto Theft Inv.	Sep 11th – 15th	Laughlin, Nevada	Richard Spallinger rspallinger@nicb.org
National Cargo Theft Summit	Oct 4th & 5th	Perimeter, Georgia	John Cannon SA john.cannon@gbi
European Branch Annual Seminar	Oct 25th – 27th	Prague, Czech Republic	Davy Borysiewicz davy.borysiewicz@baloise.be
South Central Regional Chapt. & Texas Auto Theft Invest.	Oct. 24th – 27th	Dallas, Texas	Bill Skinner bskinner4309@gmail.com
Miami Dade Police Dept. Auto Theft Symposium	Nov. 5th – 10th	Miami, Florida,	Ana Jorge ajorge@mdpd.com

2018 Training:

Australasian Branch Annual Training Seminar	March 19th – 21st 2018	Brisbane, Australia	Mark Pollard mpollard@iaatiaus.org
Southeast Regional Chapter Seminar	June 10th – 14th	Norfolk, Virginia	https://seiaati.org/2018-conference/
66th Annual International Seminar	Aug. 2018	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	Donald Cavallo dcavallo@lojack.com

2019 Training:

67th Annual International Seminar	Aug. 2019	Glasgow, Scotland	John O'Byrne jobyrne@iaati.org
--	-----------	-------------------	--

TRAINING & TOOLS

Law Enforcement Contacts for Car and truck rental companies

Thanks to Darrell Stripling, (Area Security Manager, Avis Budget Group, Inc. - Central Area , Texas, USA) who has provided details of two websites where law enforcement can find security contacts with the various car and truck rental companies.

<http://www.carrentalsecurity.com> (USA and Canadian contacts)

<http://www.truckrentalsecurity.com> (USA contacts)

