

Auto Theft Today

A PROFESSIONAL E-NEWSLETTER BY THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF AUTO THEFT INVESTIGATORS

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Filtering the facts from the fiction

The internet can be a wonderful source of information but it can also be a source of mis-information. Filtering the facts from the half truths and the total fiction can be extremely difficult, especially when our lives are so busy and our time to properly research everything we read is limited.

You may have seen the recent new articles recommending that vehicle owners should store their keys in their freezer. (www.nytimes.com/2015/04/16/style/keeping-your-car-safe-from-electronic-thieves.html?_r=0). The premise of this story is that offenders are able to steal cars with keyless entry systems by using amplifiers to boost the range of security signal up to 100 m to reach your keys inside your home. Thus the metal lining of the your freezer will act as a Faraday cage and prevent the signal from the car reaching your key.

This sounds feasible. After all it is possible to boost the range of a cars security signal with a portable amplifier so that part is correct. However to unlock the vehicle the car needs to receive the correct response from the vehicle's key fob. Assuming the your fob is stored outside its normal operating range (generally less than 50 cm), the only way that the fob's response to the request signal can reach the offender is if you also have an amplifier to boost the range of your fob's response back to the car. So yes, you do need to be careful not to keep your key fob close enough to your parked car, but the reality is that it is not likely to be happening as described in the story. As for protecting your keyless entry fob, wrapping it in aluminium foil when not in use would be a easier solution.

So what is the moral of the story? To filter the facts from the fiction you should seek expert advice. One of your best opportunities to access a wide range of experts from all around the world, is to attend IAATI's 63rd Annual Training Seminar in Phoenix, Arizona, 9-14 August. You will learn about the latest trends and the networking opportunities will provide ongoing benefit to you and your employer. The Annual Seminar is less than 90 days away – I encourage you to read the information about the seminar on pages 4 –5 and book your seat early.

Chris McDonald, Editor

Auto Theft Today



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Auto Theft Today is an official e-newsletter of The International Association of Auto Theft Investigators (IAATI).

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IAATI's Branch and Chapter Websites

Branches:

Australasian Branch

iaatiaus.org



European Branch

eb-iaati.org



Latin American Branch

iaatilatam.org



Southern African Branch

iaatisab.co.za



United Kingdom Branch

<http://www.iaati.org.uk/>



Chapters (North America/Canada)

North Central Regional Chapter

ncrc-iaati.org



North East Regional Chapter

neiaati.org



South Central Regional Chapter

tavti.org



South East Regional Chapter

seiaati.squarespace.com



Western Regional Chapter

wrciaati.org



BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATE

Your Board and its various committees have been very busy over the last few months. In particular the **63rd Annual Training Seminar Committee** together with the **Sponsorship Committee** have been working overtime to ensure the upcoming Training Seminar in Phoenix, Arizona is another great success.

The seminar registration form, a training itinerary, hotel reservation and social activity details are all available on the [website](#). If you have any questions about the seminar please contact the Seminar Director at: seminar@iaati.org

Some of the other recent committee highlights include:

The Information Technology (IT) Committee has successfully piloted its new Seminar App during the Australasian Branch Annual Training Seminar in March and the recent North East Regional Chapter Seminar. This provided a valuable opportunity to collect feedback from seminar delegates. The IT Committee will be working with the app's developer to try and incorporate many of the useful suggestions raised in this initial pilot testing phase and will undertake further testing of the app between now and August, when it will be officially unveiled at the 63rd Annual Training Seminar in Phoenix.

The Survey Committee has completed a survey of over 1,000 members who were financial members of IAATI in 2014 but had failed to renew their membership by 31 March 2015. The survey was designed to gather feedback as to why members failed to renew their membership.

The survey's key findings included:

- 30% of respondents had not renewed because they had retired or moved out the field.
- Over 20% listed either personal or organizational financial pressures as the reason for not renewing. This included a number of members who as a result of the withdrawal of state funding are having their investigation squads closed.
- On a more positive note, 22% of respondents indicated that they had simply forgotten to renew and were intending to do so.
- Only 3 respondents indicated they didn't receive value for money from their IAATI membership or the training and/or publications didn't meet their needs.

If you have any questions or comments for the Board, please email them to enews@iaati.org. We will endeavour to provide answers in the next issue of Auto Theft Today.



The advertisement features a collection of smartphones displaying the app's interface. The background is a light blue gradient. The text is in a clean, sans-serif font. The app is titled 'IAATI's New Mobile Seminar App' in a large, bold font. Below the title, it says 'FREE from the Apple App or Android'. A list of features is provided, including alerts for last-minute changes, the latest seminar program, speaker details, social and networking events, venue floor plans, Google Maps links, and other IAATI information. At the bottom, there are logos for the Apple App Store and Google Play.

IAATI's New Mobile Seminar App

FREE from the Apple App or Android

The IAATI Seminar App provides you with:

- Alerts of any last minute speaker or venue changes
- The latest version of the seminar program including the time and location of all classes
- Speaker details including photos, biographies and details of their presentations
- Details of all social and networking events
- Links to a floor plan of the seminar venue
- Links to Google maps of the surrounding area so you can plan your travel to and from the venue
- Links to other IAATI information such as the IAATI Awards, Certification and all IAATI Branch and Chapter websites.

Available on the  App Store

ANDROID APP ON  Google play

The new IAATI Seminar App – is currently being piloted at various Branch/Chapter seminars in the lead up to its official release for use at the 63rd Annual Training Seminar in Phoenix, Arizona.

2015 INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR



August 9-14, 2014
Arizona Biltmore
Phoenix, Arizona

Now it is time to start planning your trip and attendance for the 63rd Annual Training Seminar scheduled for August 9-14, 2015 at the Arizona Biltmore in Phoenix, Arizona. The Arizona seminar committee is working to provide the highest quality training available with up to date trends being addressed. We will have something for everyone and make this seminar one that you will walk away from with a new attitude and philosophies to combat auto theft.

The seminar organizing committee is working hard to provide a wide ranging program of interesting presentations and has already confirmed the following classes with more to announced in the coming months:

- ♦ Crime Prevention
- ♦ Cargo Theft
- ♦ Harley Davidson Theft and Identification
- ♦ Sportbike Theft and Identification
- ♦ Basic Insurance Fraud (Matt Reed with State Farm)
- ♦ Insurance Fraud Trends (vehicle arsons)
- ♦ Mexican Investigations
- ♦ Cell Phone Telemetry
- ♦ Street Racers Investigations
- ♦ Financial Fraud
- ♦ Basic Auto Theft
- ♦ New Vehicle Technology
- ♦ U-Haul Thefts
- ♦ ATV Theft and Identification
- ♦ ISO
- ♦ Internet Investigation
- ♦ International Panel
- ♦ Metal Management
- ♦ OCRA
- ♦ Repatriation of Stolen Vehicles from Mexico

The registration fee is set at \$US 275.00 with the late registration set at \$US 300.00

Hotel Room Rates are \$US 99.00 per night plus tax (USD) 08-07-2015 thru 08-15-2015. Hotel Reservations online at: <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/IAATI>

Golf: Seminar Attendees use code IAATI 2015 and get 10% discount, for reservations call 602.955.9655 Email: reservations@arizonabiltmore.com

Transportation: To and from Airport - Super Shuttle. Book online at www.supershuttle.com use discount code: ZYS4A. Discounted fare \$13.00 each way



Conference Registration may be completed online at <http://www.iaati.org/>

Our 2015 seminar is proudly supported by:



Manheim



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2015 INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF AUTO THEFT INVESTIGATORS

AT CHASE FIELD



IAATI

IAATI and the Arizona Diamondbacks would like to invite you out for a night of baseball to watch the D-backs take on the Philadelphia Phillies on Monday, August 10.

Tickets:
\$40- All-You-Can-Eat seats, including hot dogs, peanuts, popcorn, chips, soda and water. (Cost includes ticket, food and bus to venue)

To RSVP, please contact Annette Jacobs.

MONDAY

AUGUST 10

6:40PM

ARIZONA
DIAMONDBACKS
VS
PHILADELPHIA
PHILLIES

**PLEASE CONTACT
ANNETTE JACOBS**

EMAIL: ANNETTE.JACOBS@PHOENIX.GOV
OR CALL 602.262.7603



dbacks.com 602.462.4600

CHASE FIELD // 401 EAST JEFFERSON STREET // PHOENIX, ARIZONA

IN THE NEWS

Calgary auto theft investigation nets 168 charges, 74 stolen vehicles

CBC News, Posted: May 14, 2015

Auto thefts dropped by almost 40 vehicles a week after initial arrests. Calgary police have laid 168 criminal charges and recovered 74 stolen vehicles in a crackdown on organized auto theft. The total value of the recovered vehicles is estimated at \$1.9 million.

The operation — which began in February — targeted a small group of individuals believed responsible for many of the auto thefts in Calgary. "The group was working closely together and is suspected of selling stolen vehicles for a profit, or using them as transportation to commit other more serious crimes," said police in a release.

To continue reading the full article: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/calgary-auto-theft-investigation-nets-168-charges-74-stolen-vehicles-1.3074756>

Police swoop on child scooter gangs: Met launches crackdown on £28m theft racket

Justin Davenport, Crime Editor, The Standard, 22 April 2015

Children as young as 12 were targeted in police raids today in a massive crackdown on a £28 million racket in the theft of motorbikes and mopeds in London.

Police launched a pan-London operation against motorcycle theft with figures revealing more than 9,500 bikes were stolen in the capital last year - or 27 each day.

Scotland Yard said there had been a 31 per cent surge in thefts of bikes and mopeds - with criminals stealing machines to commit crimes such as smash and grab raids and mobile phone snatches.

Officers said children as young as 11 were involved in moving stolen mopeds around London to avoid detection by police. One group being targeted including several children of school age.



Courtney Morgan, 19, and Walid Hnida, 18 among members of a jailed robbery gang

Detective Superintendent Raffaele D'Orsi, who is leading the operation, said: "We recorded more than 9,000 offences last year which is a massive number and equates to a total of around £28 million a year in stolen mopeds and motorcycles. Around 50 per cent of these are never recovered.

"But it is not just about the thefts, these stolen mopeds and motorcycles are being used in a wide variety of criminality including mobile phone snatches and smash and grab offences." Mr D'Orsi said intelligence showed children - including girls - as young as 11 were being used to ferry stolen bikes around London and being paid around £50 a time.

He added: "These guys and girls are putting the public at serious risk, they are riding mopeds the wrong way down streets and on pavements when they are trying to get away."

To continue reading the full article: <http://www.standard.co.uk/news/crime/police-swoop-on-child-scooter-theft-gangs-met-officers-in-bid-to-halt-28m-london-racket-10194349.html>

IN THE NEWS

Car thefts nosedive, but pros still in business

William H. McMichael, The News Journal

The tipoff was a phony license plate. Police stopped the car bearing the plate as it was being driven around the Port of Wilmington. Further investigation revealed a bunch of cars missing from a high-fenced lot where cars are stored before or after shipping, and alarm bells went off. The January 1991 discovery led to Wilmington and state police breaking up a quarter-million-dollar stolen car ring, arresting five men and recovering at least 17 autos.

Stolen cars and trucks were once a regular feature in the pages of newspapers across the nation. But the thefts don't seem to generate many headlines these days unless connected with another incident. Stolen car rings still exist, and joyriders still steal unlocked cars with keys left inside. But overall vehicle theft has fallen dramatically over the past two decades – both in Delaware, the surrounding states and across the country.

Delaware alone has seen a 55 percent reduction since 1995, slightly better than the 52.5 percent drop nationwide. The 2,970 vehicles reported stolen in the state that year plummeted to 1,332 in 2013, the most recent year for which figures are available. The reductions are even greater in neighboring states, in New Jersey vehicle thefts have fallen 72.6 percent, according to the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports.

The reasons, police say, are largely related to technology: newer vehicles remotely unlocked with electronic signals are harder to break into, and easier to track. "Manufacturers are making cars harder to steal," said Chris McDonold, a former Baltimore County Police officer and now deputy director of the Maryland Vehicle Theft Prevention Council.

"Different carmakers are coming out with the chip key now, which is kind of a big deterrent," said Cpl. Kenneth Anderson, a property detective with the Delaware State Police. "You need that little connection there to get the fuel pump and all of it to work on the vehicle. They aren't as easy to steal as an older car."

Technical advances also allow police to check at high speed the unique identification numbers known as VINs that are assigned to each new vehicle in every state – establishing in milliseconds whether a suspect vehicle has been reported stolen, McDonold said.

At the same time, much older cars and their parts are starting to become obsolete and lose their value, making common street car theft increasingly unprofitable. For some thieves, though, there is a sweet spot in the used car market: the Honda Accord, particularly the mid-to-late 1990s models.

The Accord is the most-stolen car in the U.S. The top three in Delaware, according to 2012 data from the National Insurance Crime Bureau, are the 2000 Honda Civic, the 1996 Honda Accord and the 1995 Ford full-size pickup.

"Those were popular cars," said Capt. Stephen Jones of the New Jersey State Police. "They're easy to steal."

There's a market for more expensive vehicles. Those 1990s Hondas, however, are not only easier targets than newer vehicles. They also contain parts valued by street racers.

Vehicle thefts decreasing across the nation

Values represent vehicle thefts per 100,000 residents in each state.



Source: FBI Uniform Crime Reports [Get the data](#)

Continued over the page.

IN THE NEWS

Car thefts nosedive, but pros still in business (continued)

"Locally, we have particular groups, usually a certain age bracket, 17 to 25, and they're interested in a very particular model car," said Col. Elmer Setting, chief of the New Castle County Police, who said mid-1990s Honda Civics are popular targets. "They're usually [street] race groups. They need those parts ... to build and keep and retread their race cars."

Just as in western states from Texas to Montana, where the top three most-stolen vehicles are all pickup trucks, vehicle thefts in southern Delaware reflect local popularity. And as the weather warms, that spells all-terrain vehicles, or ATVs, and the golf carts and motorcycles that are so popular in more rural Sussex County, Anderson said.

"There's a lot of communities down there that use golf carts to get around," Anderson said. "If they're not properly secured and put away, in a locked shed or garage or something – a lot of times, people just cover them up in their back yard – somebody just walks over there and takes it, and they just push it away."

Those aren't limited to Sussex. "I have more shed burglaries than I have vehicle thefts," Setting said. "Because you take the ATV to wherever, and sell it – most people don't have the tracking, they didn't register the vehicles. Unfortunately, that's part of the problem. So they're hard to track. They're an easy sell."

New kind of thefts

Stealing cars and moving them up I-95 to Philadelphia was once a staple of New Castle County crime. "They would jump the fence at the Port of Wilmington, and they would take the Jeeps that were headed overseas," said Setting, who recalled helping break up such a ring long ago. "And they would jump in the first Jeep - because the keys are in 'em - and they would smash into the fence with the first Jeep. And once the fence was down, five guys would jump in five Jeeps, drive 'em to Philadelphia and you'd get about \$3,000 a Jeep."

Now, that's become less lucrative – at least, domestically. "You take that \$50,000 car to a chop shop in Philly, they know they're receiving a stolen car," Setting said. "So they're only going to give you 5,000 bucks. There's bigger money, other regional police officials say, in quickly moving stolen vehicles – particularly luxury models – to Canada, Mexico or even overseas."

"More and more, cars are a commodity that are valuable," said Steven Wheeler, a former police chief and executive director of the Pennsylvania Auto Theft Authority. "Particularly in Africa and even the Eastern European market, you see the high-end cars being stolen here. ... And that's organized criminal activity. There's clearly groups of criminals that know what they're doing, they have the connections in those foreign countries. And they run those scams."

"Most auto theft today is professional, organized groups," McDonold said. These thieves, he said, make quick work of a stolen car. They put it in a shipping container and ship it overseas," he said. Officials in Pennsylvania and New Jersey said they see the same trend. He said the rings have different roots but have in common access to money and technical expertise, such as cloning VINs to make them appear legitimate. "Some of the rings will be stealing those cars from various lots, rental lots or parking garages, where the keys and the vehicles are both accessible," said Jones. "And then because GPS is in so many vehicles now, a lot of times what they're doing is either quickly trying to dismantle them, or even run them onto containers."

Jones' department has traced stolen luxury vehicles to West Africa. During 2013-2014's Operation Jacked, about 160 stolen cars worth more than \$8 million were recovered, Jones said. Twenty-seven of the vehicles, mostly luxury SUVs, were taken in carjackings. Carjackers were typically paid \$4,000 to \$8,000 by street-level fences, who then sold the cars to higher-ups.

To continue reading the full article: <http://www.delawareonline.com/story/news/local/2015/05/04/new-era-car-thefts/26870667/>

IN THE NEWS

NICB: Leave Your Keys, Lose Your Car

In a first-of-its-kind analysis of vehicle thefts released today, the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) found a disturbing trend — an increasing number of thefts of vehicles with the keys left inside.

For the years 2012 through 2014, a total of 126,603 vehicles were reported stolen with the keys left in the vehicle. While overall vehicle thefts are declining, vehicles stolen with keys left inside are trending in the opposite direction. As a percentage of overall thefts, 5.4 percent of vehicles stolen (39,345) in 2012 had their keys in them. That figure rose to 6 percent (42,430) in 2013, and in 2014, it increased again to 6.7 percent (44,828).

To show the significance of these numbers, if the 44,828 thefts were removed from 2014's reported estimated total of 659,717, the thefts would fall to 614,889. The last time national vehicle thefts were that low was 1966.

To continue reading the full article: http://www.thisisthewestcountry.co.uk/news/somerset_news/12906017.Farmers_warned_over_vehicle_theft_scam/?ref=rss

The full report can be [viewed and downloaded here](#). See a video [here](#).

HGVs stopped and checked in operation against international car theft gangs

POLICE stopped and checked nearly 60 vehicles as part of an international operation in Essex. The vehicles, including 41 HGV's, were part of a search for vehicles stolen by international crime gangs.

Officers from Essex Police, the Metropolitan Police, Interpol, the National Vehicle Crime Intelligence Service, National Crime Agency and investigators from Germany, Austria, Sweden and Spain were involved in the operation.

Essex Police motorbikes and Met Police traffic cars were used to intercept heavy goods vehicles and vans using the M25 and A13.

The vehicles were escorted to the Thurrock services area where officers from the Essex Police Commercial Vehicle Unit, other forces and officials from the International Association of Auto Theft Investigators checked the vehicles and their loads.

Investigations have shown that southern Essex is a potential hotspot for the movement of vehicles or parts stolen in Britain and in mainland Europe. Cars stolen in Essex and neighbouring counties have been found hidden in containers waiting to be shipped through ports such as Tilbury, Harwich or Felixstowe. Vehicles stolen in Europe have been found in Essex awaiting shipment to Africa or other continents.

DC Paul Gerrish, of the Kent and Essex Serious Crime Directorate, one of the organisers of the operation, said the theft of cars, vans or lorries was an international crime being carried out by highly organised gangs. "We are working closely with Interpol and the National Vehicle Crime Intelligence Service to investigate these crimes and regular operations are carried out on major routes through the county and at ports. Specialist investigators from Germany, Austria, Sweden and Spain are here for a week to help us with enquiries and also to help us examine vehicles and gather useful information from drivers."

To continue reading the full article: http://www.echo-news.co.uk/news/12921511.HGVs_stopped_and_checked_in_operation_against_international_car_theft_gangs/



Police officers from Essex, Germany and Austria investigate a German-registered lorry carrying motor-caravans

IN THE NEWS

How crooks can steal your car - without the key

by John Evans, Autocar

High-end cars with keyless entry can be worryingly easy prey for thieves. We spend a day with the Metropolitan Police to see how they're fighting back

If you'd stolen a Range Rover and were, one Thursday this month, triumphantly driving it down the A13 from London to Tilbury Docks to stash it in a container on a ship bound for Africa, your luck was just about to run out.

Positioned on the eastbound carriageway of this busy road, on a section between Dagenham and the Dartford Crossing, was a police car fitted with an automatic numberplate recognition (ANPR) system that alerts officers to vehicles recorded as being linked to crime. Farther down the road were four marked and unmarked pursuit cars, waiting for the nod from the ANPR police car to give chase to any vehicle that the alert system flagged up. Nearby off a slip road, waiting patiently in the teeth of a biting easterly wind blowing across the Essex marshes, was a squad of about 30 police officers, their job to process any vehicle, and its occupants, the pursuit cars escorted in. Your reception committee, if you like, poised to read you your rights – before slapping on the cuffs.

The activity that bitterly cold Thursday afternoon was part of a week-long, region-wide operation codenamed Operation Endeavour that involved 800 police officers patrolling 20 major roads in and around London. Although the police were happy to Hoover up any criminals who strayed into their net, they were particularly keen to catch those who steal 'keyless' vehicles – cars that can be unlocked automatically when they sense the owner's key fob in close proximity and that have an engine start button.

To continue reading the full article: <http://www.autocar.co.uk/car-news/industry/how-crooks-can-steal-your-car-without-key>

Ramping Up Automobile Cybersecurity

In late 2014, signs emerged that the automobile industry was taking the first steps toward addressing cybersecurity and privacy risks.

For instance, General Motors hired its first chief product cybersecurity officer, and the automobile industry set up an automobile Information Sharing and Analysis Center to collect and share information about cyber-related threats and vulnerabilities in motor vehicle electronics.

Heading into 2015, efforts to mitigate cybersecurity and privacy risks affecting automobiles continue to gain traction. Recently, Senator Edward Markey, D-Mass., issued a report detailing various automobile security and privacy vulnerabilities. Then, on Feb. 11, Markey confirmed that he, along with Senator Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., will introduce legislation that would direct the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the Federal Trade Commission to establish federal standards for improving the security of vehicles and protecting drivers' privacy.

"We need the electronic equivalent of seat belts and airbags to keep drivers and their information safe in the 21st century," Markey says.

The senators' efforts come after auto manufacturer BMW recently addressed a potential security gap affecting data transmissions to and from the company's connected vehicles via the mobile phone network

To continue reading the full article: <http://www.healthcareinfosecurity.com/ramping-up-automobile-cybersecurity-a-7921/op-1>

IN THE NEWS

Tracker releases 2014 UK report

Tracking device firm, Tracker, has released its annual report on car theft with the very welcome news that vehicle theft in 2014 was lower than any year since 1968. In fact, car theft has declined by 70% in the last ten years.

These are the vehicles which were most targeted by thieves in 2014:

BMW X5:

A long time favourite of criminal king pins, gang lords and underworld low lifes, the X5 has held the dubious honour of Britain's most stolen car for six consecutive years, based upon Tracker's data.

Mercedes-Benz C-Class:

The C-Class has been around since 1993 and has gone through four generations of varying quality. The early years were arguably its best but the current version, released last year, is putting in a good effort. Its position in the most stolen list can probably be attributed to opportunity - huge numbers have been sold - combined with the desirability of its premium marque badge.

Range Rover Sport:

The Sport model revolutionised Range Rover's image upon release in 2005, winning praise and condemnation in equal measure - the latter from Greenpeace, who believed it represented everything un-green and environmentally unfriendly. Thieves, however, were clearly undeterred by its gas guzzling reputation.

Mercedes-Benz E-Class:

A size up from the C-Class compact saloon, the current E-Class is reaching the end of its natural lifespan, with a replacement due by the end of the year. Thieves don't seem prepared to wait for the new model.

Land Rover Discovery:

Not the obvious choice for a bit of Saturday night joyriding, Discoveries are usually stolen to order and shipped abroad.

BMW M3:

Tracker's data doesn't specify which particular version of any car was most stolen, but with older M3s becoming collector's items and lacking some of the modern security features of newer cars, they are likely to be popular targets for thieves.

Range Rover:

JLR is desperately trying to foil thieves exploiting loopholes in keyless entry technology, with the Range Rover one of the key targets for high tech criminal gangs.

Audi RS4:

A new entry to the list this year, it's easy to see the RS4's appeal for thieves - specifically a 0-62mph time of 4.7 seconds and plenty of premium German build quality.

Mercedes-Benz ML-Class:

A relatively low profile entry in the SUV sector, the ML-Class's prestigious badge is an automatic attraction for thieves.

Mercedes-Benz C 63 AMG:

Merc's small but super hot saloon is another target for steal to order gangs and is probably usually already safely away in a shipping container before most owners even realise it's gone.

Source: <http://www.raccars.co.uk/news/article/3268/car-theft-down-in-the-uk>

IN THE NEWS

Number of cars stolen in the UK falls to 48-year low

By Lauren Davidson, The Telegraph

Recorded incidents of vehicle theft have fallen to their lowest level in almost 50 years in a sign that the billions automakers inject each year into increase car security are paying off. The number of vehicles stolen in the UK last year fell by an annual 1.2pc to 69,547, according to new data from the Office for National Statistics.

The crime – which has fallen 70pc since 2014, when 231,323 cars were nicked, is at its lowest point since 1968.

There are 36m vehicles on the road in the UK, meaning that 0.2pc of vehicles were stolen last year, down from a rate of 0.74pc a decade ago. “Thanks to significant investments by car manufacturers in the latest security systems, vehicle thefts across the UK are at the lowest levels for decades,” said Mike Hawes, chief executive of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT).

“We are, however, calling for better tracking of how different vehicles are stolen so that we have an accurate understanding of how criminals are operating and can develop future technology to eradicate vehicle crime.”

The industry has taken significant steps in recent years to clamp down on car thefts, with electronic systems and sophisticated software making it more difficult for crooks to crack into cars. However, there has been an uptick in thefts of classic cars in recent years – particularly Minis, Ford Escorts and VW camper vans – as burgeoning interest in vintage vehicles drives up their value.

Older cars are also more vulnerable because they are not equipped with the modern security features included in newer models. The automotive industry generates £64bn in turnover each year, employs 770,000 people and adds £12bn to the UK economy, according to the SMMT.

Source: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/newsbysector/transport/11558743/Number-of-cars-stolen-in-the-UK-falls-to-48-year-low.html>

Farmers warned over vehicle theft scam

Police are warning farmers to be on their guard after concerns crooks could be targeting agricultural vehicles.

The force says that they have been alerted by a neighbouring force about the scam. It involves a telephone caller lying about being a member of the local rural crime team and wanting to speak to the farm owner.

The name being used in the scam is John Thomas, asking for a list of vehicles held at the farm and whether they are data-tagged.

When the farmers questioned the caller’s legitimacy and asking if they could call him back as the line was very bad he hung up. The voice was very husky, as though suffering a sore throat.

This is plainly an attempt to identify what to steal and thankfully we are not aware of any calls of this type within Avon and Somerset.

To continue reading the full article: http://www.thisisthewestcountry.co.uk/news/somerset_news/12906017.Farmers_warned_over_vehicle_theft_scam/?ref=rss



IN THE NEWS

South Africa's 'ticking time bomb' of vehicle crime

PART OF A TIME BOMB: International vehicle crime expert John Edmeston reports that South Africa has 'a ticking time bomb' of vehicle crime due to social conditions. The crime rate in South Africa is expected to continue to rise as economic and social conditions deteriorate – it's a trend that is already shown in the sharp climb in truck and car hijackings.

That's the opinion of John Edmeston, global CFO of Cartrack Holdings, who adds that as economic growth contracts, unemployment figures grow and regard for the rule-of-law deteriorates, vehicle tracking and recovery companies believe, theft and hijacking for sale into the illicit local and cross-border markets will increase.

About 50% of stolen and hijacked vehicles are disposed of within South Africa, he adds, and 30% are exported to other countries while the rest find their way into chop-shops and the parts market. "As long as cash-strapped consumers are prepared to look the other way to save a buck and fuel demand criminal syndicates will continue to operate and flourish."

Official crime statistics show a 12.3% increase in carjacking to 11 221 reported cases, Edmeston says. His company's truck hijacking stats increased by 16% in the financial year to February 2015. "This aligns with similar figures released by the Road Freight Association."

The association, he explained, reported 1150 truck hijackings across the industry during the same period – "a rapid and significant escalation". More reports, he added, are showing a direct correlation between the crime rate and economic and social conditions. "Car and truck hijackings are generally perpetrated by organised crime syndicates, thus the hijacking increases also suggest that organised crime is on the rise in South Africa."

He pointed out that a report by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Monitoring the Impact of Economic Crisis on Crime, shows crime increases during economic crises. The incidence of robbery, the report said, might double and homicide and vehicle theft increase.

Using data recorded by police in 15 countries, Edmeston claims, the incidence of robbery, homicide and car theft correlate with the possible effects of economic stress. In eight of 11 countries undergoing economic upheaval, a link between economic factors and crime could be clearly established. He also pointed out that during the financial crisis of 2008/9 truck hijackings in SA soared by 61% over 2006/7. During the recovery years of 2011/12 the number of incidents fell by 42%.

"Nevertheless we have to come to terms with the fact that crime, particularly organised crime, is an industry in itself and will thrive regardless of economics in an environment where controls and consequences are inadequate."

Beyond the economic link to crime rates, Edmeston pointed out, various studies stated that many factors were driving this trend, among them youth gangs, drugs, alcohol and the availability of firearms. "Gangs operating drug and vehicle theft syndicates are rife across South Africa, particularly in Gauteng and the Western Cape," Edmeston said. "Exacerbating this, the perceived or real high levels of corruption, instability in our law enforcement agencies and perceived low criminal prosecution rates also play a role in bolstering crime - criminals believe they can act with impunity."

There was, he said, "a ticking time bomb" forecast of 10-million unemployed young South Africans by 2020; already the World Employment and Social Outlook – Trends 2015 report puts South Africa as having the world's eighth-highest unemployment rate and among the youth the figure is 52.5% - sixth, globally.

To continue reading the full article: <http://www.wheels24.co.za/Arrive-Safe/SAs-ticking-time-bomb-of-vehicle-crime-20150507>

IN THE NEWS

Gone in 30 Seconds: Motorcycle Thieves, Stunt Riders, and One Wild CHP Sting

Greg Nichols, Los Angeles Magazine

When L.A.'s street bike culture started making motorcycle theft a major problem, the California Highway Patrol devised an undercover operation. Then things really spun out of control

Read the full article: <http://www.lamag.com/longform/gone-30-seconds/>



Stripped of funding, Illinois auto theft task forces are shutting down

By Matt Buedel of the Journal Star , Peoria, IL

Stolen vehicle task forces around the state are shutting down offices instead of chop shops as new state budget strategies siphon mandatory insurance fees from police work into the state's gaping budget hole. Some of the six auto theft task forces in the state have been around since 1992, one year after statute created a \$1-per-policy car insurance fee to fund police teams dedicated to car theft investigations. The money frequently reimbursed salaries for agencies that contributed manpower to the task forces. But an executive order from Gov. Bruce Rauner issued Jan. 12 froze that pool of money, along with hundreds of millions of dollars in other state funds deemed non-essential spending.

The Illinois House of Representatives this week considered a measure that would sweep more than \$1 billion from various accounts into the state's general fund, including \$6 million in auto theft task force grants — roughly a year of income for the groups derived not from tax dollars but from insurance premiums.

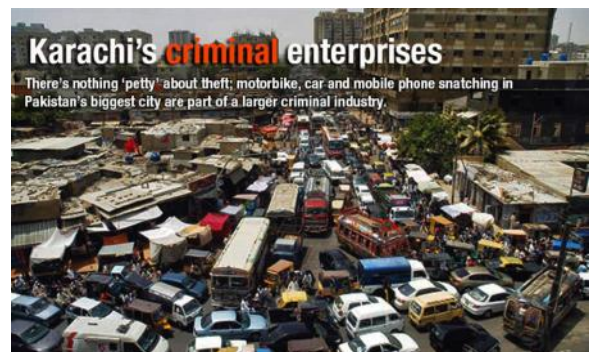
Local agencies almost immediately withdrew personnel from the task forces when the funding halted — including city and county investigators from the Peoria-based State and Local Auto Theft Enforcement (SLATE) Task Force on Feb. 13 — though the task forces themselves still technically continued operations.

To continue reading the full article: <http://www.pjstar.com/article/20150328/NEWS/150329126/?Start=1>

Cogs in the wheel

By A B Siddiqi, Dawn, Sunday Magazine

Baba Mithal Abro's Thursdays for the past 40 years were spent outside Madni Masjid in Karachi's F.B. Area. Many would look at the 80-year-old man, at his wrinkled face and flowing white beard, and assume he possessed some kind of saintliness. The old man must have giggled to himself countless times: he was never there to pray, he was always there to steal a motorbike, and he did it without arousing any suspicion. Once he had obtained his target, he would drive the stolen motorbike straight to Hub or a town nearby Karachi.



To continue reading the full article: <http://www.dawn.com/news/1172207>

IN THE NEWS

The auto fraud squad: How Canadian insurance companies are cracking down on fake claims

Nicholas Misketi, Financial Post

TORONTO – “We know of some entities who have about 50 different ways to defraud us,” says claims investigation supervisor Dave Nolan of Aviva Canada Inc. “They try something new every day,” he said.

Nolan is but one supervisor of many crack teams in insurance companies across Canada, who have to sniff out the elaborate fake claims that are made after an accident. The business is lucrative for those who prevail – the “entities” often being body shops, tow-truck operators and health practitioners these days, not just your “Slippin’ Jimmy” (the fake fall in front of a car) any more.

That hits you right in your pocketbook. The website insurancehotline.com says an estimated 15 per cent of insurance premiums go toward covering fraudulent auto insurance claims. In real numbers, this means \$225 on an annual average auto insurance premium of \$1,500 covers the cost of auto fraud for the insurer.

No dedicated auto fraud investigation unit exists within law enforcement, so auto insurers and the Insurance Bureau of Canada have to do their own legwork and then take their discoveries to the police. Convictions don’t always follow, because of the backlog of insurance disputes once it gets to court.

According to Nolan, some other ways in which Aviva is defrauded are: adding extra tolls, overcharging for storage, or purposely removing salvageable parts like the airbags or catalytic converters before the salvage company comes to recover those parts for Aviva. “They’ll add an extra toll, or, rather than charging us a reasonable amount for storage, say \$60 per day, they’ll charge us \$100 per day,” he said.

Personal injury fraud and staged collisions are where things get interesting, and two high-profile cases highlight the issue. In the first example, in 2013, a judge ordered a B.C. couple to pay the province’s insurance provider over \$200,000; the couple’s friend had willingly lied about witnessing a collision they caused by running a stop sign.

More significantly, in 2012, Toronto Police arrested 37 people and laid 130 charges in Project Whiplash, involving staged accidents, bogus rehab clinics and fake tow-truck operators. Auto insurers lost an estimated \$4 million to \$5 million

To continue reading the full article: <http://business.financialpost.com/personal-finance/the-auto-fraud-squad-how-canadian-insurance-companies-are-trying-to-crack-down-on-fake-claims>

Identity Theft and Car Rental

In the year 2012 one of the major rental car companies had 42 of their cars stolen by a car theft ring using fake credit cards and stolen drivers’ licenses, engineered by a woman in Orange County, California. After joining the rental car company’s loyalty rewards program, she carried out the first of many fraudulent transactions at the counter using fraudulent identifying documents. Loyalty rewards programs were originally designed to offer convenience to loyal customers, however it also is very convenient for a car thief armed with false documents.

She also made additional rental reservations online through this falsified rewards program account. This ploy enabled her to bypass the rental office and go straight to the reserved rental cars lot that has the keys in the cars and just drive off without any difficulties. According to a CHP Detective of the Orange County Auto Theft Task Force (OCATT), it was the that lack of face-to-face client interaction that made this crime so easy to pull off.

To continue reading the full article: <http://www.ibosocial.com/mlmtools/pressrelease.aspx?prid=432225>

IN THE NEWS

Theft prevention posters California style

Obvious Plant recently offered some handy theft prevention tips to shoppers at a mall in Southern California with the installation of some helpful parking garage signs. Tips include filling a decoy purse with bees and lying in wait with a crossbow and grenade. Obvious Plant is an ongoing humor project by Jeff Wysaski of Pleated-Jeans



Students Win Awards for Anti-Theft PSA Competition

by Sedonia Martin

Towson's Electronic Media & Film (EMF) students Jasmine Jones '15, Sarah Lupton '15, Leonardo Brito '16, Gina Ciardi '16, Mickey Fortune '16, Asia Bell '15, Jack Dunlap, '16 and Jacob Jumbelick '17 each had winning entries in the 2015 Maryland Vehicle Theft Prevention Council & Maryland DC Anti-Car Theft Committee PSA audio and video competitions. The 30-second PSAs focus on auto theft crime prevention, auto arson, insurance fraud, theft from vehicle or owner give-up and will be broadcast locally on WBAL-TV and WBAL-AM 1090.

Paul Holland '83, a member of the MD/DC Anti-Car Theft Committee along with Christopher T. McDonald, Deputy Director of the Maryland Vehicle Prevention Council, presented the winners with their checks. The two organizations provide \$6,000 to be split among winning submissions.

This is the sixth year the Maryland Vehicle Theft Prevention Council and the Maryland DC Anti-Car Theft Committee has worked with Towson EMF students on their anti-theft PSA campaign. According to Holland, "one of the reasons we continue to work with Towson is the students present a professional product, and Towson has the right equipment for them to work with."

McDonald said the Maryland Vehicle Theft Prevention Council and the Maryland/DC Anti-Car Theft Committee are "happy and pleased" to work with Towson. "The PSAs the Towson students produce are the best in the Baltimore region. We're happy to work with the Towson students to produce a real product to get the message of auto-theft to the public."

To continue reading the full article: <http://tunews.towson.edu/2015/05/14/students-win-awards-for-anti-theft-psa-competition/>

IN THE NEWS

Brand new cars without license plates targets of car theft gangs – PNP

Julie M. Aurelio, Philippine Daily Inquirer, May 4th, 2015

Brand new cars, particularly those with no license plates yet, are now the hot targets of car theft gangs.

The Philippine National Police's Highway Patrol Group have warned that carjacking syndicates are going after sport utility vehicles which only have conduction stickers serving as the temporary license plates.

Senior Supt. Arnold Gunnacao said brand new vehicles without license plates would be easy to sell.

Syndicates ship the vehicles to the Visayas and Mindanao, where there are customers for expensive SUVs, according to Gunnacao. Vehicles would be passed off as imported vehicles in Mindanao, or brand new cars in Visayas and Mindanao.

"Rich people in Mindanao are fond of SUVs as these are the types they usually order from carnapping syndicates," Gunnacao said.

Car theft gangs would receive specific orders for colors, models and brands of vehicles and look for newly bought vehicles in Metro Manila that fit the description. After stealing the cars, they ship them to Visayas and Mindanao, where insiders in government offices would arrange to have the vehicles registered to the new "owners."

Gunnacao added that in some cases, even ordinary sedans were being stolen, not just high end SUVs

Source: <http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/689200/brand-new-cars-without-license-plates-targets-of-car-theft-gangs-pnp>

A memorial to former European Branch President, Barry Hancock

Hans Kooijman, 2nd Vice President IAATI

May 9, 2014 was a black day because of the death of Barry Hancock, past President of IAATI-European Branch and as we in Europe say: "our Mr. IAATI and forever President".

The proceeds of the raffles which were organized during the 62nd Annual Training Seminar in Forth Worth and the 25th seminar of the European Branch in Almelo (Netherlands) were donated to the Hancock Family and with the money they were able to realize their plans.

They bought a Barry Hancock memorial bench which is placed on a spot nearby the house where Barry and his wife lived and where Barry daily was walking with his dogs.

Barry's daughter Zoe sent us a picture and on behalf of herself and her mother Vanessa Hancock. She wrote that they are very happy with this memorial. Zoe and Vanessa are very thankful and grateful to IAATI.



SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

This issue's Sponsor Spotlight focuses on Manheim, a leading provider of automotive products and services and a Diamond Corporate Partner for IAATI's upcoming 2015 Seminar in Phoenix.



Manheim, established in 1945 and is the leading global provider of vehicle remarketing services, has a major presence in North America where it has more than 16,000 employees in 79 operating locations. Manheim, a Cox Automotive business, registers nearly seven million used vehicles annually, facilitating transactions representing nearly \$46 billion in value.

A subsidiary of Atlanta-based Cox Enterprises, Manheim connects buyers and sellers of used vehicles to the largest wholesale used vehicle marketplace. The company helps dealer and commercial customers, including automotive dealerships; banks, car rental agencies and auto manufacturers achieve results by providing physical and digital auction channels, data analysis, financing, transportation and mobile products and solutions.

Manheim is transforming the wholesale vehicle buying and selling experience through investments in technology and innovative products and services. Manheim's research and consulting arm, Manheim Consulting, provides industry-leading market intelligence and publishes the widely recognized annual Used Car Market Report.

Manheim offers its customers a reliable and secure market in which to purchase a variety of vehicles, products and services that no other remarketing provider can match.

Manheim is committing to assisting law enforcement with combating auto crimes and has been an activity sponsor of the IAATI regional and national chapters for over 20 years. Along with sponsorships, a number of our location security managers are members of the organization and the Cox Automotive Security Director is a regional director in the NE-IAATI organization.

For more information visit: <http://www.coxautoinc.com/> or contact the representatives from Manheim at the 63rd Annual Training seminar in Phoenix, in August.

Left—Right: Colleen Cassidy, past president NE Chapter; David Reeder, Director of Corporate Security Manheim Auto Auctions and Brad Anderson, past president NE Chapter



TRAINING & TOOLS

IAATI Conferences and Training Seminars



Southeast Seminar	June 21 – 26, 2015	Spartanburg, SC, USA	wrobinson@iaati.org
International Seminar	August 9 – 14, 2015	Phoenix, Arizona, USA	rspallinger@iaati.org
Western States Auto Theft Inv.	October 5 – 7, 2015	South Lake Tahoe, Nevada, USA	wsati.org/2015conference.html
South Central Regional Chapter	October 20 – 23, 2015	South Padre Island, Texas, USA	bskinner4309@gmail.com
European Branch Seminar	October 21 – 23, 2015	Riga, Latvia	akn@forsikringopension.dk
South African Branch Seminar	October 28 – 30, 2015	Weesgerus Police Resort	dnel@tracker.co.za

Other Conferences and Educational tools

The **International Association of Marine Investigators (IAMI)** have released their January–March 2015 issue of their *Review* Newsletter. To download a copy click on the following link <http://www.datatag.co/iami/mobile/index.html#p=1>



The **National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB)** continually offers a wide range of free training on their website. For more information visit www.nicbtraining.org



National White Collar Crime Centre NW3C: Online Salvage Vehicle Auction Fraud is now available as a webinar



Keep up to date with equipment theft. Check out NER's newsletter, **The Equipment Theft Quarterly**



Microsoft Office Training RECOVERI from South Africa has generously put together a basic and advanced MS office Training Program, and IAATI has entered the information into the File Library. Click here for more information.



ATPA Do you want to learn more about an ATPA? Interested in starting an ATPA? Then visit IAATI's ATPA Committee website for more information. www.combatautotheft.org

VIN Newsletter. Members interested in reading the latest issue of the Australasian Branch Newsletter – Vehicle Investigator News (VIN) – can download a copy by clicking here. **April 2015 issue now available**



TRAINING & TOOLS

NMVTIS Law Enforcement Guide

The American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA) and the Bureau of Justice Assistance have completed a NMVTIS Law Enforcement Guide tri-fold to use for educating and training Law Enforcement Investigators. The guide provides the Law Enforcement Investigator with valuable information on NMVTIS including:

- How Law Enforcement obtains access to NMVTIS;
- Types of businesses required to report to NMVTIS;
- How the businesses report to NMVTIS;
- How to verify a business is registered to report to NMVTIS;
- Explains the penalties for a business not reporting to NMVTIS;
- Provides information for the NVMTIS data consolidators; and
- Provides the information on how to report an NMVTIS violator.

AAMVA has made the guide available for viewing or downloading from the Law Enforcement section of the vehicle history.gov website. The new NMVTIS guide will be a new tool that should help IAATI members educate themselves and train their own agency's officers on this federally mandated program.



To View or Download the guide, click this link: http://www.vehiclehistory.gov/nmvtis_law_enforcement.html

NER Spring Equipment Advisory



The Crime Prevention Tune-Up"

Spring often is the time when overworked equipment finally sees the maintenance which owners put off during their busy seasons. As owners, rental companies and operators hurry through their catch up on maintenance priorities, NER asks that you take a minute to include a Crime Prevention Tune-up

Latest Theft Alerts:

- [Connecticut Rental Fraud - 4.6.2015 \(NE\)](#)
- [Georgia Excavator Theft - 4.6.2015 \(SE\)](#)
- [Houston Deere Backhoe Theft - 4.2.2015 \(C\)](#)
- [Washington Caterpillar Excavator Stolen - 3.29.2015 \(W\)](#)
- [More... http://www.ner.net/theft-alerts.html](http://www.ner.net/theft-alerts.html)

2015 Australasian Branch Seminar - Presentations available

The Australasian Branch held their 2015 Training Seminar in Perth, 22-25 March. For the benefit of IAATI members worldwide a number of the presentations can be downloaded and viewed by clicking on the following link:

<https://www.iaati.org/download/efiles.asp?id=1195>