

Vehicle Crimes Today

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

VOLUME 2 ♦ ISSUE 5 ♦ May 2020

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Important Message from our President.

Dear Members

30 April 2020

IAATI 68TH ANNUAL SEMINAR CHICAGO 2020

I sincerely hope you and your loved ones are keeping well during these stressful times.

As you are aware, our 68th Annual Training Seminar was scheduled to take place from 2 to 7 August 2020 in Chicago, Ill, USA.

The COVID-19 pandemic forced the relevant committees to evaluate the feasibility of continuing with the Seminar, as well as options available to cancel or move the Seminar to another date.

After careful consideration of all options, the Executive Board was briefed and advised to postpone the 2020 Chicago Seminar. Due to various factors, the 2021 Seminar scheduled in Denver, CO, USA cannot be moved.

Therefore, on Wednesday 29 April 2020, the Executive Board unanimously resolved that the Chicago Seminar is moved to August 2022.

The applicable Committees are considering alternative options to interact with the membership via e-platforms while we are in this predicament.

Further communications addressing all effected aspects due to this unprecedented and difficult decision will follow as soon as possible.

Keep safe and healthy

Kind regards

Tinus Odendal
PRESIDENT

Auto Theft Today



Editor: Nathan McGanty

Editor: Nathan McGanty

Email: enews@iaati.org

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

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This newsletter is designed to provide the reader with links to the related information. Click on pictures or links to see more information. The inclusion of a link does not imply the endorsement of the site.



IAATI's Branch and Chapter Websites

Branches:

Asian Branch
iaati.org/ab

Australasian Branch
iaatiaus.org

European Branch
eb-iaati.org

Latin American Branch
iaatilatam.org

Southern African Branch
iaatisab.co.za

United Kingdom Branch
iaati.org.uk/

Chapters (North America/Canada)

North Central Regional Chapter
ncrc-iaati.org

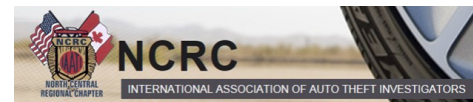
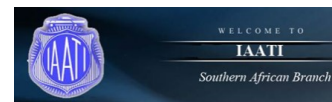
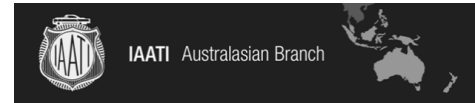
North East Regional Chapter
neiaati.org

South Central Regional Chapter
tavti.org

South East Regional Chapter
seiaati.org

Western Regional Chapter
wrciaati.org

COMING SOON!



MEMBER NEWS

Just a reminder!!!

2020 dues are NOW due

Go to the website and renew today!!



WEBSITE UPDATE:

For photos and PowerPoint presentations from the IAATI conference in Glasgow, please log into www.iaati.org and go to the resources page.

E-NEWSLETTER UPDATES

In order to provide relevant and fresh news related to vehicle theft and related crimes, the focus will be to provide more issues, more often, with the latest stories that you need to see, all at your fingertips. IAATI training seminar information, Branch/Chapter News and updates, and committee reports are all posted on the website. Auto Theft Today will have a section included with links to all of these areas on the website that you can easily access for the latest information. Below is a chart of the menus on the website to provide an overview of the wealth of information available once you log in. Please take a few minutes to visit www.iaati.org and check it out!

ABOUT IAATI	MEMBERSHIP	EVENTS	NEWS	RESOURCES	AWARDS	CERTIFICATIONS
President's Message	Application Form	IAATI Training Events	Submit a News Story	Training Resources		Certification Process
Association History	Renew Online	Non-IAATI Training Events	North & South America	Publications		Basic Certification
Branches and Chapters	Search Members	Past Events	Europe & the UK	Photo Galleries		Advanced Certification
International Board Members	Member List		Asia, Africa, & Australasia	Forum		Master Certification
Committees			Browse by Month			Certification Resources
Documentation						

Networking, sharing information and keeping up to date with the latest trends, contacts and news in the world of vehicle theft are instrumental in the always demanding world that we as investigators live in, so the majority of each issue will contain summaries of the latest incidents, arrests, and related information with links to the full story. The links can also be copied and pasted into an email to share with others.

There will also be a section that links to the "Submit a News Story" function on the website. Collectively, we can all reap greater benefits from every-one sharing just one story, one contact or one idea. Please submit yours either through the website or in an email to enews@iaati.org.

2019-2020 Executive Board



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Paul Thomas
[Learn More](#)



PRESIDENT
Marthinus H. Odendal
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Ana Laura Brizuela
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Bob C. Hasbrouck
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To see the full list of Directors and Associate Directors please visit the direct link below:

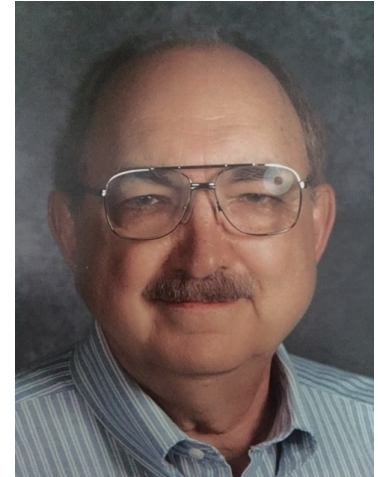
[Full Executive Board](#)



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
John Abounader
[Learn More](#)

25 Years.....or more

We are very excited to honor those who have been members for 25 or more years. We appreciate all the dedication and time given to the organization and the mission. Please check out some of the many who have been on this journey and see what they have been so dedicated. This of course is not even close to being everyone. Email enews@iaati.org to be added.



Those with no picture:

[Gary Labb](#) | [Phil Googin](#) | [Skip Copeland](#) | [Bob Hasbrouck](#) | [Michael Tower](#)

Welcome New Members

We want to take the time and welcome our newest members to IAATI and their Chapter/Branch. The following are our new members for April 2020. Again welcome!

Paul Jones-UK Branch

Ross Beaton-UK Branch

David Dinnen-UK Branch

John Robson-UK Branch

Edward Stock-UK Branch

Ian Thwaites-UK Branch

Niall Elliott-UK Branch

Vicky Sebastianutti-EU Branch

Richard van-Essen-EU Branch

David May-UK Branch

Carl Schmidt-UK Branch

Viktor Doffek-EU Branch

Barry Crookston-UK Branch

New Dealer Fraud Prevention and Awareness Best Practices

Please review the two documents for the recommended best practices for Dealerships and Fraud Prevention. This documents will be added to the toolbox on the last page of the VCT in future publications.



International
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Financial Crimes
Investigators



International
Association
of Auto Theft
Investigators

Dealer Fraud Prevention and Awareness Best Practices Worksheet

Due to the increase in fraudulent auto transactions, this Dealer Fraud Prevention and Awareness Best Practices Worksheet is to be used as a tool for dealerships to lower their fraud risk. This is not an all-inclusive list of controls or best practice, however, if utilized, it will help to reduce the likelihood of falling victim of fraud and reducing the fraud risk by identifying the Red Flags. **Clear Red Flags before delivering the vehicle.**

It is very important to review all the documents provided to you by the customer. They are betting on the fact you only collect the documents required and by-pass the review process. Never accept digital copy of a driver license, government issued ID card or Social Security Card.

ID Theft

- ✚ Online application
- ✚ Examine **ALL** documents including the driver license or ID that is presented.
- ✚ Look for cheat sheets that are used to when completing the credit application (in-person).
- ✚ Examine credit report for hard Inquiries from other dealerships that sell a different brand.

Straw Buyer

- ✚ Online application
- ✚ Dealerships only interaction with the customer is the day of signing
- ✚ A 3rd party is with customer who answers many of the questions
- ✚ Examine credit report for hard Inquiries from other dealerships that sell a different brand

Synthetic Identity

- ✚ Online application
- ✚ Examine ALL documents including the driver license or ID that is presented.
- ✚ Look for cheat sheets that are used to when completing the credit application (in-person).
- ✚ Examine credit report for Hard Inquiries from other dealerships that sell a different brand.
 - Examine the credit report for authorized user account or
 - Only other accounts were newly opened

Payoff Fraud

- ✚ Newly issued duplicate title
- ✚ Vehicle recently paid off or recently paid down

Credit Application Misrepresentation, aka Employment and Income Fraud

- ✚ Does the income fit the job title?
 - This is not easy to identify, but by using internet search tools, you can get a good idea
- ✚ Employment
 - Most fraudster use an LLC or transport company for their employment
 - Business doesn't have a website and can only be seen on Manta or Corpora wiki
- ✚ Length of time at residence
 - Check to see if this is a physical address or maildrop (UPS Store)

Dealership Best Practices Worksheets-Continued



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Dealer Fraud Prevention and Awareness Offsite Delivery Checklist

To reduce the chances of fraud, this checklist should be used for all offsite vehicle deliveries. The only exception is for cash deals in which all the funds have already been wire-transferred into the dealership's account.

All remote deals need approval from two Managers. The Sales Manager and Finance Manager needs to sign off on all deals before delivery. When the deal is completed the General Manager will go through the deal to make sure we have made every effort to prevent fraud

There are two options for a customer to sign documents remotely from the dealership:

- Maverick Notary Signings or another 3rd party notary service
 - The dealership **shall** make the notary appointment
- A licensed-sales representative from the dealership signs the documents with the customer
 - **At no time should someone who is not a licensed dealer employee, Maverick notary or 3rd party notary, sign docs with a customer**
 - Broker deals must have all stipulations collected and approved by the underwriter prior to vehicle delivery, including verification the vehicle has been added to the insurance policy and the lender is listed as the lienholder/lessor
 - Obtain a color copy of the customer's driver's license and current insurance card must be verified
 - A clear thumb print must be taken on all customers
 - If the deal does not have a lease return or is not a repeat customer, then take the following further steps:

Driver's License Verification: (Pre-delivery)

- Signature on license should match signatures on documents
- Verify the license expiration date is correct for that state
- Compare the license fonts to your own license. (If you are not familiar with that state, look in the I.D. Checking Guide or on the state's website)

Member Articles-Article 1

“MURDER CAR FOUND BURNING”

By Maureen Stefenelli

“MURDER CAR FOUND BURNING” was the headline of the February 22, 1929 Chicago Daily Tribune and the topic of this article. We have all heard of the St. Valentine’s Day Massacre where seven men of Bugs Moran’s gang were murdered in a garage on the north side of Chicago. The garage was just the start of how important of a role motor vehicles would play in the investigation.

Originally it was believed there was only one car of killers at the scene. It is now noted that there were two fake police cars that seemed to play a part in the massacre. Only as a result of an order to search all garages for liquor violations were the police finally in possession of what they considered the first real piece of evidence against the men who constituted the firing squad. This discovery was only made possible by a hurried effort to destroy one of the vehicles so that it wouldn’t be discovered. Deputy Police Commissioner John P. Stege stated at the time, he was convinced the men were doing a little bit each day toward disposing of the car so it would appear as a mute witness against them. Then when Police Commissioner Russell’s order was published directing a search of all garages, the men apparently realized they had better hurry their work of destruction. Using a little too much gasoline, the blaze to destroy the vehicle became uncontrollable and the fire department was summoned. The discovery of the wrecked car was regarded as a great stride toward solving the massacre mystery. Clues such as numbers on the tires and in hidden places on the vehicle were expected to be traced to a purchaser. Witnesses also came forward who were able to identify the men using the garage.



(Detectives looking over a burned and dismantled Cadillac touring car, 1927 model found at 1723 N Wood St.)

Article 1 continued....

On February 28, 1929, nearly a week later, an explosion took place on 1st Avenue and Harvard Street in Maywood, a suburb of Chicago. At that location they found a partly demolished Peerless touring car. The vehicle was disguised to appear as an unmarked police car complete with a siren, a gun rack, and Detective Bureau license plates. Evidence was found linking one of the victims to the massacre. There was no connection of this car with the massacre at the time of the blaze until the confession of Byron Bolton in January 1935. Bolton was an Al Capone associate turned FBI Informant who claimed involvement in the St. Valentine's Day massacre from beginning to end. It wasn't known until then that the 1927 Cadillac found a week after the massacre was definitely used. It was unknown at the time that 2 cars were involved.



(The 1926 Peerless used to bring the phony policeman to the St. Valentine's Day Massacre)

Ninety years later we have in Law Enforcement's armory LPRs, GPS, BERLA, LoJack, NICB and Carfax to name a few resources to assist in vehicle identification. Old School Gangsters (OG) who were identifying vehicles by tire numbers and confidential VINs is something you have to respect even more in the early age of motor vehicle Law Enforcement. Even then it was noted the potential value of a vehicle and what it could add to any investigation.

Member Articles-Article 2

INSURANCE FRAUD IN TIMES OF CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC By Cora Smolianski (1st Vice President IAATI LATAM BRANCH)

Few month ago IAATI LATAM BRANCH delivered a paper to share many ideas focusing on education and training to fight against insurance fraud.

All of this taking into account the conclusions presented during the plenary of the 67th International Conference held in Glasgow, Scotland, in September 2019,

We remarked the role of the investigators who seek to improve and constantly update their experience technique.

But, on the other hand, we also highlighted the need to promote a positive cultural reinforcement in society.

Then, we basically discussed what kind of message could change the decision of the possible scammer.

That is promoting social behaviors based on the same values that IAATI supports, related to ethics, respect for others and loyalty to norms in human relationships.

Right now, because the Coronavirus Pandemic, a lot of countries ordered, or at least recomended, social distancing and lockdown, while promoting homeoffice.

Effects of this situation are changing many forms of our usual business practices, including the insurance activities.

For example, the Argentine insurance market are arguing about covering or not losses and claims related to car accidents, which are not authorized to circulate because the mandatory quarantines ordered by the Government.

We are talking about a lost occured in the context when driving whithout authorization is a crime, but which implies a situation that is not regulated by the insurance law or by the insurance contract.

Also, the market is discussing whether the remote claims adjusters task is possible or not.

They are delicate questions but it is urgent to make decisions.

Finding adequate answers for these discussions is relevant, because we not only have to protect people`s health but also take care of the economic and financial flow.

By the way, if any insured commits a crime, he or she will have to answer for his or her behavior and face the regulated legal consequences.

However, the insurance market needs to promote their business and not discourage the purchase of coverage.

Perhaps offering several coverages which do not exclude automobile insurance, bearing in mind that in Latin America automobile insurance is the one most commercialized.

But the insurance market also must take care of the satisfaction of its obligations with the insured.

Article 2 continued....

In this sense, we agree with the warning message that our colleague Todd Wolf has already spread, because it is true that the pandemic may be an opportunity for scammers. As well as for other forms of crime that affect insurance, for example, theft, illegal trafficking in auto parts, etc.

But it is also an extraordinary opportunity for good car insurance investigators as well as for the insurers.

We may detect insurance fraud after the pandemic. But right now, we can test our capabilities in this context, at least in many cases.

Investigators fighting insurance fraud have long used technology and social media for these purposes, which could be helpful in this case.

It is time to test the ability to promote financial flow from insurers to policyholders, but at the same time prevent and detect fraud.

We may only be able to analyze the results of our investigations when we overcome the pandemic.

But anyway and whatever the outcome, we can surely learn good lessons.

We refer to the learning and training tests of insurance fraud investigators.

But also lessons for the insurer in particular and people in general. That is why we insist on promoting a new culture based on healthy values such as good faith.

We know that fraud may increase. Not only because the remote work of claim adjusters is an opportunity for fraudsters, but also because many people are economically pressed to obtain money, and thus inclined to commit fraud.

But we also encourage insurers to stay in business and honor their commitments to policyholders.

We trust the ability of our researchers who work remotely.

It may fail, but then we will have the opportunity to improve our tools to combat fraud.

On the other hand, insurers must also adjust their anti-fraud policies to promote a better culture among the insured community, reinforcing the value of utmost faith and respect for the insurance contract, which in the end will be for their own benefit.

It will be one of the good lessons that, among others perhaps more serious, remain for people when we manage to overcome the pandemic.

And transcending our approach to insurance fraud, it is our desire that all of our colleagues take precautionary measures to stay healthy and safe.

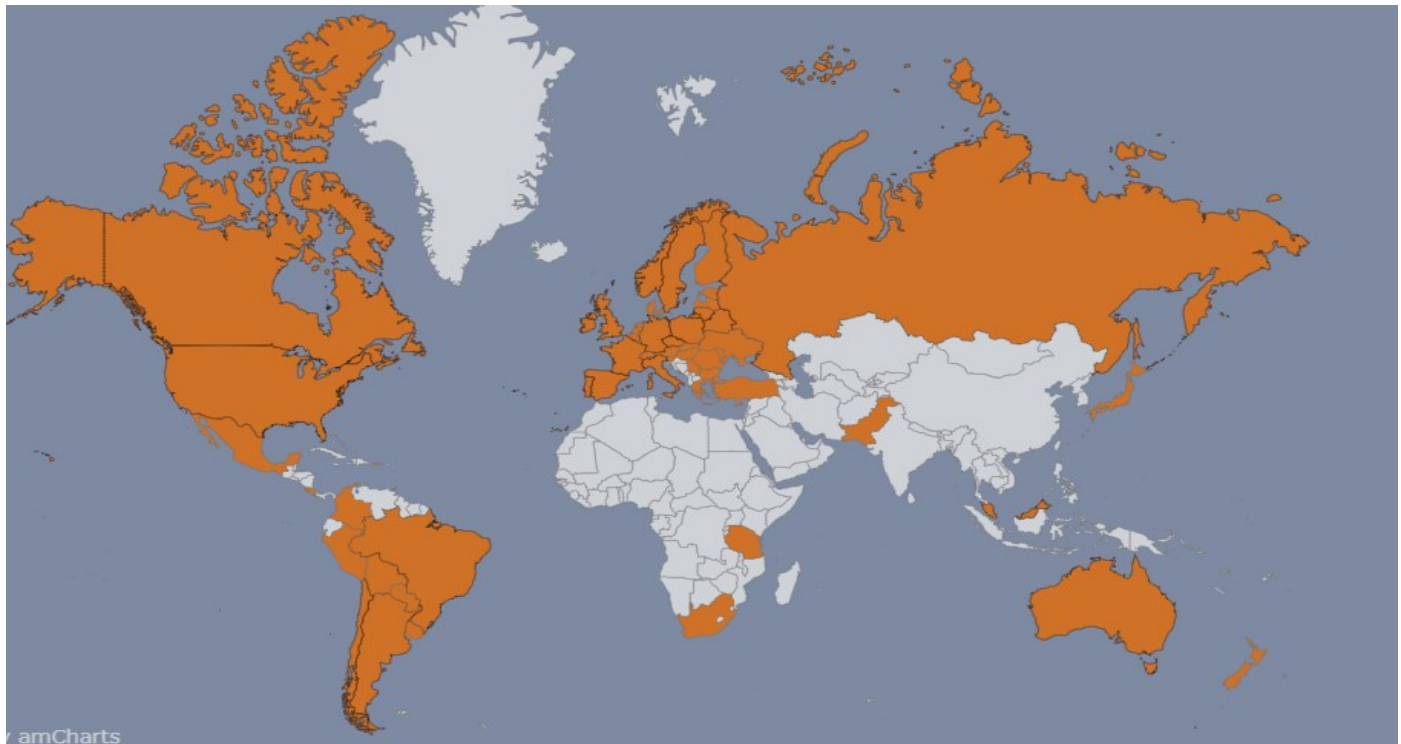
Where in the World? By Paul Thomas

Did you know that IAATI has members in Trinidad and Tobago? Well we do, we have two members based there - Martin and Robert.

Have you ever needed a contact in Belarus, Kenya or Malaysia? Yes, we also have members there as well.

In fact we have over 3,100 members in 66 countries throughout the world.

While IAATI is currently working to expand our membership base throughout Asia, you can see from the following map that we have members in most parts of the world. These are people you can turn to for assistance with your investigations.



To find details of an IAATI member in another country simply:

Go to our website www.iaati.org

1. Click the *Account* button in the header of the home page and log in.
 2. Once you have logged in, click the *Search* button in the header.
 3. An orange coloured panel will open where you can either search the entire site or search for members.
 4. To search for members click the blue *Member Search* button.
- The best way to search is to then click the '+ *Further options*' link. This will enable you to filter your search by a large number of data items including 'Home country'.

Alternatively, you can access this search feature from the Membership page of the website. Simply select 'Search members' from the submenu on the right side of the Membership page. Remember, as this tool is only available to financial members, you can only search for members once you have logged into your account.

As a quick guide to where we have members you can also visit the new interactive membership map on our website.

<https://www.iaati.org/membership>

IAATI UPDATES

Chapter / Branch Information - Branch and chapter information is located on the website.

For general information and obtain contact information for a branch or chapter, please [click here](#). Information about IAATI chapters and branches can be found on the website: ABOUT IAATI/BRANCHES AND CHAPTERS. For individual chapter and branch news, please visit that website or go to page 2 and click on a logo to be directed to that branch or chapter website.

Committee Information / News / Reports - Committee information is located on the website.

For general committee information, members and their contact information, please [click here](#) or from the website, click ABOUT IAATI. To access periodic committee reports, please [click here](#). Committee reports are located on the website: ABOUT IAATI/DOCUMENTATION.

Training Seminar / Event Information - Training information is always being added to the website.

For information on all IAATI training events as well as training offered by others, please [click here](#). Members are able to view information regarding the various training opportunities available and register online when able.

Board Members / Information - Please [click here](#) to view information on the IAATI website regarding current board members.

Vehicle Crimes Today - Publication deadline

The next issue of Vehicle Crimes Today will be released beginning of April. If you have any articles, photographs, member news, or anything else to include in the next issue, please [click here to submit a story](#) or send an email to enews@iaati.org. In order to have your information included in the next edition, please submit or email everything by the 25th of each month.

Board Members and Committee Members wanted!

Each year during the annual IAATI conference, members elect a new board of directors. New committee members are selected as well. Now is the time to do your part and submit your intent to serve on the IAATI board or one of the committees. It is as simple as sending an email to the chair of the Nominating Committee, Past President JD Hough at jdhough@iaati.org.

When submitting your email, please including the following information:

- Your name and number of years you have been an IAATI member along with membership number;
- Your profession and current employer;
- Your reasons for wanting to get more involved;
- The number of IAATI seminars you have attended over the past years;
- What ideas you have that might benefit IAATI;
- Your experience/work within your local IAATI chapter/branch.



IACP Updates



IACP's Vehicle Crimes Committee has been busy for the last few years!

The committee continually works on multiple issues regarding vehicle related crimes. Currently work groups are focusing on rental vehicle thefts, emerging technology issues and creating a vehicle crimes toolkit for smaller agencies.

More than 75% of crimes committed each year involve motor vehicles. The IACP Vehicle Crimes Committee recently developed a comprehensive educational toolkit for vehicle crimes investigations. The toolkit, along with the corresponding reference and resource guide and presentation, provides law enforcement agencies with the information they need to enhance their response to vehicle-related crimes.

The mission of this IACP working group is to create a best practices guideline for law enforcement agencies that do not have a dedicated vehicle crimes investigator. The material here-in will provide them with the resources necessary to better investigate vehicle related crime. The IACP Vehicle Crimes Committee has created a concise and comprehensive "Educational Toolkit for Vehicle Crimes Investigation".

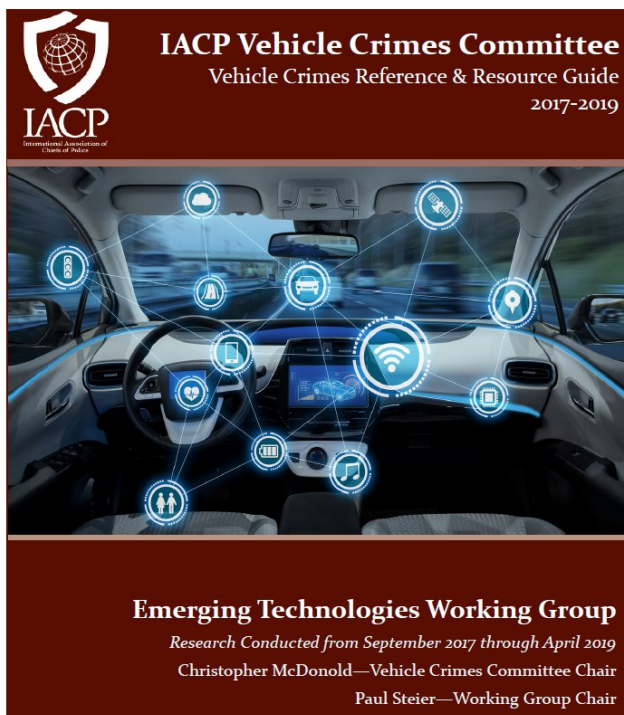
Educational Toolkit for Vehicle Crimes



Educational Toolkit on Vehicle Crimes for Law Enforcement Agencies

IACP Vehicle Crime Committee

Shaping the Future of the Policing Profession™



IACP-continued

[Click here](#) to see what resources are available for your agency!



Awards & Recognition

If you know of any IAATI Member that has received any recognition please let us know so we can share the news. Email enews@iaati.org.



Awards Nominations

With a busy work life we rarely take time out to sit back and review our work or that of others. We rush to finish one job and then move straight on to the next. However it is important that we all occasionally take a moment and assess ours and our colleagues work, and then acknowledge those examples of outstanding achievement.

While all Chapters and Branches have their own local awards the International Board also manages a total of eight awards including:

- Raymond H. Dreher Memorial Award
- The IAATI Award of Merit
- IAATI President's Award
- IAATI Directors Award
- The IAATI Insurance Investigator of the Year Award
- IAATI Heavy Equipment Award
- IAATI Component Parts Markings Award
- NICB Award of Excellence

Nominations for all Awards close on 1st May each year, but you don't need to wait until then. Why not use some free time over the to nominate someone and send it in.

Details on the criteria for each award and how to nominate can be found on the Awards Page of the website at <https://www.iaati.org/awards>

You Chapters also have awards available. Please reach out or look at their websites and see what is available and the due dates as they will all be different. It is important to recognize all the dedicated hard workers out there. Please take the few minutes and nominate these important people.

NMVTIS

What is NMVTIS you ask?



According to the website, The National Motor Vehicle Title Information System (NMVTIS) is, among other things, a tool that assists local, state, and federal law enforcement in investigating, deterring, and preventing vehicle-related crimes.

Please [visit the website](#) to learn more about [NMVTIS and its Benefits to Law Enforcement](#).

IN THE NEWS...

Car theft warning from Tracker. April 4, 2020, <https://www.fleetnews.co.uk/> reports that opportunistic criminals are looking to steal cars to fill a replacement parts gap caused by COVID-19.

North Carolina Kids, Teens Steal \$1M in Vehicles from Dealerships. May 4, 2020, <https://www.insurancejournal.com/> reports that a group of teenagers as young as 9 are being accused of stealing \$1.1 million in vehicles from car dealerships.

\$500,000 bail each for suspects in Bozeman vehicle break-ins. May 5, 2020, <https://www.krtv.com/> reports that the suspects are part of the Felony Lane Gang that targets individual across the country stealing from vehicles and committing identity theft and fraud from documents found in the vehicles.

Rise in searches for 'How to set fire' a sign insurance fraud beckons as economy crashes. April 7, 2020, <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/> reports that this search is spiking amid the downturn from the pandemic and this could be a sign that people are planning commit insurance fraud.

Fort Smith woman allegedly tries to ram police vehicles, flashes gun during pursuit. May 6, 2020, <https://www.swtimes.com/> reports that the 27 year old was arrested for 8 counts of felony aggravated assault, fleeing, and felon in possession of firearm. It all started when deputies tried to stop the stolen truck.

Tools for your Toolbox

Here you will find publications that could be used as a tool for the trade. If you have anything you would like to share here please email it to enews@iaati.org.

- [NCTFF-National Cargo Theft Prevention Task Force](#)
- [VEHICLE RENTAL/LEASING INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS: A FORCE MULTIPLIER](#)
- [TSA Rental Truck Brochure](#)
- [NHTSA "Preventing Auto Theft" Video](#) (Please use and share)
- [NHTSA "Protecting Your Vehicle from Theft" social graphics](#) (Please use and share)
- [Car Rental Security Contacts](#)
- [FBI Auto Theft Training Video](#)