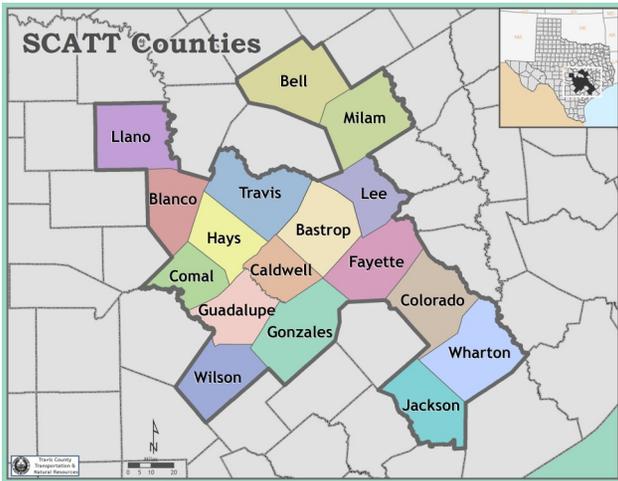


**COUNTIES COVERED by the TASK FORCE**

- |          |           |
|----------|-----------|
| Bastrop  | Guadalupe |
| Bell     | Hays      |
| Blanco   | Jackson   |
| Caldwell | Lee       |
| Colorado | Llano     |
| Comal    | Milam     |
| Fayette  | Travis    |
| Gonzales | Wharton   |
|          | Wilson    |



**“You Hold the Key”**

Last year in Texas, car thieves stole nearly 100,000 vehicles and in **ALMOST HALF** of those crimes, they had an accomplice—

**THE VEHICLE OWNER**

Vehicle theft is often a “gateway” crime, meaning it leads to other more serious crimes like drug smuggling and the buying / selling of weapons. In fact, in 2006 a stolen vehicle from Houston was shipped overseas to be used as a car bomb.

**LEAVING KEYS IN VEHICLE IS ILLEGAL**

Yes, that’s right. Not only is it illegal to leave your keys in your unattended vehicle, but if your vehicle is stolen with the keys in it, your insurance company may not cover your loss.

- ◆ You can leave your keys and lose your car, or
- ◆ You can take yours keys and keep your car.



**Lori Hardin**  
 Public Awareness Coordinator  
 Sheriff's Combined Auto Theft Task Force  
 PO Box 1748  
 Austin, TX 78767  
 Member of IAATI

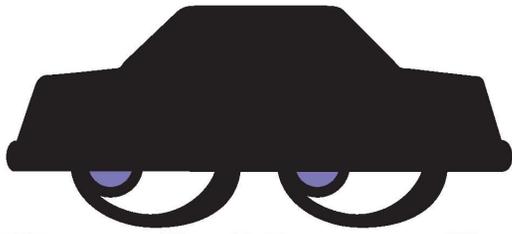
SCATT  
 Serving 17 Counties in Central Texas  
 E-mail: [lori.hardin@traviscountytexas.gov](mailto:lori.hardin@traviscountytexas.gov)  
 Phone: (512) 854-8735  
 Fax: (512) 854-7410



**NICB Hot Wheels:**

**America’s 10 Most Stolen Vehicles in 2013**

- |                              |                             |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| #1<br>Honda Accord<br>53,995 | #2<br>Honda Civic<br>45,001 |
| #3<br>Chev. PU<br>27,809     | #4<br>Ford PU<br>26,494     |
| #5<br>Toyota Camry<br>14,420 | #6<br>Dodge PU<br>11,347    |
| #7 Dodge Caravan<br>10,911   | #8 Jeep Cherokee<br>9,272   |
| #9 Toyota Corolla<br>8,010   | #10 Nissan Altima<br>8,892  |



# Watch Your Car

TEXAS AUTO BURGLARY & THEFT PREVENTION AUTHORITY



## Sheriff's Combined Auto Theft Task Force

Headquartered at the Travis County Sheriff's Office, located at:

7811 Burluson-Manor Rd.

Manor, TX 78653

(Also known as the Collier Building or East Command)

(512) 854-9735

## Auto Theft / Burglary

### Prevention Tips

Vehicles are stolen in Texas every 5 minutes. No matter what kind of vehicle you drive, old or new—car or truck—you could be the next victim. The following could help keep you and your vehicle safe.

Tips to Protect Your Vehicle:

- \* **Take your keys**—One out of every five vehicles stolen had the keys left in them.
- \* **Lock your vehicle**—Almost half of all vehicles stolen were left unlocked.
- \* **Don't hide a second set of keys in / on / under your vehicle**—Extra keys can easily be found, especially by a thief.
- \* **Park in well lit areas.**
- \* **Park in attended lots**—Auto thieves / burglars do not like witnesses and prefer unattended parking lots.
- \* **Only give ignition / door key to parking attendant**—If your trunk and glove box use the same key as the door, have them changed. Don't give the attendant easy access to your glove box or trunk. Upon returning, check the tires and battery to insure they are the same as those you had when you parked.
- \* **Don't leave your vehicle running unattended**—Vehicles are commonly stolen or burglarized at convenience stores, gas stations, ATM's, etc. Many vehicles are also stolen on cold mornings when the owner leaves the vehicle running to warm up.
- \* **Completely close car windows when parking**—Don't make it any easier for the thief to enter your vehicle.
- \* **Hide your valuables**—Don't make your vehicle a more desirable target for thieves by leaving valuables in plain sight.

### How to Spot a Stolen Vehicle

Many stolen vehicles are sold to unsuspecting buyers. If you knowingly buy a stolen vehicle you CAN be arrested. If you buy a stolen vehicle unknowingly, you could lose the car and the money. To avoid becoming the vehicle thief's second victim, we URGE you to keep these tips in mind:

- \* When buying from a private individual, make sure the title and registration match the name and address of the person selling the vehicle.
- \* Be cautious of a seller with no fixed address, place of employment or a phone number.
- \* Ask the seller for references about past financing and insurance on the vehicle. Verify the information with the bank, finance company or agent.
- \* Ensure the vehicle identification number (VIN) on the vehicles dash is present, secure and unaltered.
- \* Check to ensure the VIN plate has not been repainted and the numbers stamped in the plate appear to be the original factory numbers.
- \* If in doubt about plate authenticity, check with a new car dealer who handles the same model, or contact a Law Enforcement Agency. Thieves may remove the VIN plate and replace it with one from a similar wrecked vehicle.
- \* Be suspicious of any deal that "seems too good to be true".