

## How can I help?

- If you witness a burglary in progress, call the police (911). Do not confront the suspects; they may be dangerous.
- Do NOT buy items, especially stereos and other electronic equipment, on the street. If you do so, you may be encouraging future incidents of auto burglary.
- If someone tries to sell you an item that you suspect is stolen, call the police.
- If you see suspicious persons or activity in your neighborhood, call the police.
- Share the information contained in this pamphlet with your neighbors, family and friends. Knowledge is power!



## Important information the police will need:

- ✓ License plate number, year, make, model and color of your victim vehicle:

Lic. \_\_\_\_\_ Yr. \_\_\_\_\_ Make \_\_\_\_\_ Model \_\_\_\_\_

- ✓ Serial numbers of stereo and/or electronic equipment installed in your vehicle:

Item \_\_\_\_\_

Make \_\_\_\_\_

Model \_\_\_\_\_

Serial number \_\_\_\_\_

Item \_\_\_\_\_

Make \_\_\_\_\_

Model \_\_\_\_\_

Serial number \_\_\_\_\_

The Santa Ana Police Department is working hard to reduce the number of auto burglaries in our community. By following the tips in this pamphlet, you can help us achieve our goal.

**SANTA ANA**  
**POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
Non-Emergency Phone Number  
**(714) 834-4211**

# AUTO



# BURGLARY

## A Guide to Prevention

**Santa Ana**  
**Police Department**



**PAUL M. WALTERS**  
CHIEF OF POLICE

**AUTO BURGLARY** is a rising crime in most major cities in the United States. The offenders are of all ages and races. Some burglars are experienced and others are merely opportunistic. Burglaries occur at all hours of the morning, day and night and in just about any location. Sometimes, these burglaries occur in less than a minute.

The motives for auto burglary vary. For the most part, burglars steal to make a "quick buck." Many burglars are drug addicts and steal to support their habits. In recent years, burglars have resorted to stealing vehicle registration cards and other vehicle paperwork that contain personal information on the vehicle owner. This information is later used to facilitate the crime of identity theft and/or other forms of economic fraud.

Regardless of the motives or causes, **AUTO BURGLARY** is a problem. Victims lose valuable belongings and suffer other monetary consequences in the form of property damage and lost time. We all become victims when the increase in auto burglary translates into higher auto insurance premiums.

The purpose of this pamphlet is to provide the reader with helpful preventative measures designed to curb the rise of auto burglaries in our city.

The Santa Ana Police Department is committed to reducing and preventing the number of auto burglaries by arresting offenders and working with the public to discourage future incidents. Remember, you can make a difference in preventing this crime.

## Tips for protecting your car and belongings:

- If you have a garage, use it. Most auto burglars do not want to break into a garage in order to gain access to your vehicle.
- If possible, park your vehicle in public view or in an attended parking lot. During nighttime hours, park your vehicle in a well-lit area.
- Do not leave your vehicle unlocked and unattended. A thief needs only a few seconds to open the door and grab any loose items.
- Make sure your vehicle windows are rolled up and/or secured.
- Do not leave valuables in plain sight. These items only attract the attention of a burglar looking for an easy target. If you must leave valuable items inside your vehicle, lock them inside the trunk. **DO NOT** leave you purse, wallet, briefcase or laptop computer inside your vehicle.
- Install and use an auto alarm system. The system may not prevent a burglar from breaking into your vehicle; however, it attracts unwanted attention and scares many thieves off before they have a chance to steal anything.
- Consider installing a pullout type stereo or a stereo featuring a detachable face. Take the stereo or faceplate with you when you leave your vehicle unattended.

- Record the make, model and serial numbers of your stereo, amplifier, speakers and any other electronic devices installed in your vehicle. Consider using an engraver to mark these items with a personal identification number or your driver's license number.

## If you become a victim:

- Do not touch your vehicle before it can be processed for evidence.
- Notify the police department as soon as practical.
- Report any and all incidents of auto burglary. Even if there is no loss, evidence or suspect information, police reports help investigators analyze crime patterns and develop strategies for reducing future incidents.
- Provide the police department with a detailed list of any missing items including make, model, serial number, color, value, etc.
- Obtain the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of any and all witnesses to the crime.
- If the burglary occurs at your residence, talk to your neighbors. They might be able to provide information useful in solving your case.
- If the burglary occurs in an apartment complex or shopping center, contact the manager and/or security guard(s) to make them aware of the problem.