



Victoria Police Department

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New Year, Same Old Crime

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Vehicle burglary continues to be one of the most common crimes in Victoria yet one of the most easily prevented.

More often than not, these are crimes of opportunity, meaning that the burglar capitalized on the opportunity for an easy score. The most common opportunities for vehicle burglaries are created when vehicles are left unlocked, or when valuables are left in plain view.

Many burglars simply check car doors while walking through parking lots or neighborhoods. When one is found unlocked they enter the vehicle and help themselves to whatever is inside. Others may force their way into vehicles by breaking a window or damaging a lock when something valuable is seen inside.

In 2023, 343 vehicle burglaries were reported to police. Of those, 272 (79%) involved unlocked vehicles. Property stolen included 32 firearms. So far, this year, 21 vehicles have been reported burglarized with 18 (86%) left unlocked and four guns stolen.

In several instances, arrests have been made after observant citizens immediately called police upon recognizing suspicious behavior.

Preventing a car burglary is as simple as removing or hiding valuables and locking your doors. If you must leave valuables in your car, at least lock them in the trunk. You should also try to park in well-lit areas at night and if you can, avoid parking in the street.

If you witness any suspicious behavior such as someone looking into vehicles or pulling on vehicle door handles, call 911. Do not attempt to confront the person.

Don't create an opportunity for someone to make you a victim, hide your belongings, lock your vehicle and take your keys.

For more information on burglary prevention or starting a neighborhood crime watch, contact VPD's Community Engagement Unit at 361-485-3808 or PoliceCEU@victoriatx.gov