



City of La Porte

Established 1892

Police Department

Recognized as a Best Practices Agency by  
the Texas Association of Police Chiefs



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## **LPPD asks community to help in deterring thieves**



While La Porte officers take all crimes personally, Burglary of Motor Vehicle offenses remain one which truly gets under their skin. Thieves and vandals may be someone whom they just saw walking along the roadside, yet had no reason to stop. Or perhaps, a thorough neighborhood patrol didn't expose the criminal hiding in the shadows. Therefore, as thefts from inside of unlocked cars break-ins continue to be common throughout the region, the La Porte Police Department (LPPD) is asking for the help of their area citizens in deterring these easily preventable crimes.

Regardless of the time of year, it is important to consider just how easy a target your vehicle may be for would-be car burglars. Beyond the obvious acts of leaving cars unlocked and unattended overnight, or leaving your car running as you run into the convenience store, day care center, or post office, it is important to remember that car burglars never take a break. Although simple oversights such as unlocked doors and valuables left in plain sight are easily the two most common causes for becoming a victim, there are other ways in which you may unknowingly be attracting criminals.

Statistically, few crimes affect such a wide range of people as an event where their vehicle is burglarized or intentionally damaged. In order to aid the La Porte Police in the prevention of such crimes, and help each resident enjoy a crime-free environment, please follow these **four simple steps** which have been shown nationwide to be effective means of motor vehicle burglary deterrence.



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- 1. Park your vehicle in a secure location.** Studies conducted both regionally and nationwide have shown vehicles parked in the street have a 120% higher chance of burglary. Additionally, while percentages for parking in a driveway are not as favorable as in a garage, vehicles parked in a driveway also have a reduced chance of break-in when compared to those parked curbside. LPPD advises that the best way to combat motor vehicle burglaries is to utilize *proven deterrents of all residential crime*: keeping hedges trimmed, removing low hanging tree branches, installing outdoor lighting, and utilizing locking devices.
- 2. Lock any unoccupied vehicles.** City-wide, an overwhelming percentage of reported burglaries involve unlocked vehicles. Certain individual neighborhood percentages have been shown to reach as high as 90% of vehicles being unlocked. In fact, the preceding 5-year average for Burglary of Motor Vehicle events throughout the entire City of La Porte have involved 66% the vehicles having been left unlocked. Not only do unlocked vehicles make easier targets for criminals, but once inside a vehicle, burglars often choose small, easy to carry, items which typically do not have serial numbers recorded and can also be sold for a quick profit. Purses, wallets, laptops, iPads, cell phones, stereo equipment, and loose change are items particularly sought after. Simply recording model and/or serial numbers, and removing any valuables from plain sight, can deter criminals and enable the police to track items.
- 3. Remove valuables.** While locking doors is a major deterrent of theft, a determined thief who can see your valuables simply by looking through a window may go the extra mile to enter your vehicle. Equally important, if you have an electronic device, stereo system, or other illuminated piece of technology, be aware that glowing items serve as a beacon for thieves as they walk or drive along residential neighborhoods.
- 4. Report suspicious people walking around neighborhoods as soon as possible.** Reporting suspicious people to the police helps track movements and patterns of criminals which may also link them to other crimes. Sadly, analysis nationwide has revealed that only half of vehicle burglaries are ever reported; leaving an uphill battle for police in combating such a trend. However, armed with knowledge of such events, and community assistance, your police department can continue their primary mission of fighting crime.

To report suspicious activity, please contact the La Porte Police Department at 281-471-2141. Or if you wish to speak with a crime prevention specialist, call 281-842-3183 or 281-842-3124.