



MOTOR VEHICLE BREAK-INS!

Don't worry! We haven't had a series of thefts or break-ins. But now is the time to think about how to safeguard against becoming a victim.

Property crimes are mostly crimes of opportunity and now that summer is here, those opportunities are found in abundance. The carefree attitude of people on vacation combined with a suffering economy is a recipe for disaster. But tourists are not the only careless ones. Many people tend to leave doors unlocked or windows down with the mindset that "it's too hot" or "I'll only be a minute." But a minute is all it takes for someone to permanently deprive you of your personal property.

So as you drive around town, shopping or doing errands, keep these things in mind:

- Never leave your vehicle unattended with the keys inside.
- Lock your doors and keep your windows closed (at least 90% of the way) even when parked outside of your home.
- Park in busy and well lit areas.
- Do not leave valuables such as a purse, GPS or cell phone in plain view.
- Equip your vehicle with an alarm or other anti-theft device.
- Don't store valuables such as personal documents or firearms in your vehicle even in a locked glove compartment or trunk.

Remember, the best defense is a good offense. There is no faster way to ruin your day, or your vacation, than having someone take your property from you. And if you should become the victim of a theft, report it immediately.

And don't forget to ***LOCK IT UP!***

Southern Shores Police Department

