



Campus Cops Corner

-Public Safety Tips for the PPCC Community-

Public Safety Bi-Weekly Newsletter

It's summertime, and while many of us look forward to outdoor activities and pleasant weather, my police colleagues are gearing up for the kinds of crimes which tend to increase when kids are out of school, etc. One of those is auto theft. Read about the Colorado "Watch My Car" program below.

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WATCH MY CAR!

I have a number of common sense suggestions for you in order to keep your car from being stolen this summer, i.e., keep it in the garage, (if not in the garage, at least in the driveway), keep it locked with the windows rolled all the way up. Don't keep your keys in the vehicle, and avoid leaving valuables visible in the vehicle. Colorado, however, has a very unique program called "Watch Your Car." In short, you register your car with the local police and they apply a tamper resistant and highly reflective sticker (such as the one featured below) to your rear window. The sticker tells law enforcement that this car is not normally driven between 1:00 and 5:00 a.m., in the morning. If law enforcement sees it being driven, they are immediately authorized to stop the vehicle even if it's not committing a traffic violation.

A second program involves "VIN Etching." Many car thieves "part vehicles out" at "chop shops." The windows are often some of the things sold. "VIN etching" involves using a mild acid solution to engrave your Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) onto every piece of auto glass on your vehicle.

Upon letting my insurance company know that I had this done, they amended my policy so that I wouldn't have to pay my deductible if my car was stolen!

These programs are free! If you're interested, call my colleague CSPD Detective Chuck Ackerman at 719-444-7235 to make an appointment. It'll take about 20-30 minutes including paperwork. Then visit with your insurance company and update your policy for the savings!

Important Numbers & websites:

- 24-7 Emergency Number: 502-2911
- Emergency Alert Sign Up: www.ppcc.edu/alert

