

APRIL INSURANCE TIP OF THE MONTH

The Office of the Superintendent of Insurance, Criminal Division, and the New Mexico Statewide Auto Theft Prevention Authority want to keep your car safe!

Car theft has gone down in New Mexico, but we still have one of the highest rates in the country. An early analysis by the National Insurance Crime Bureau shows that auto theft remains a serious nationwide problem. Thieves are going high tech, using smart keys and switching vehicle identification numbers to avoid detection. The Auto Theft Prevention Authority is part of OSI and our goals are (1) reduce the number of vehicle and vehicle parts theft; (2) increase the arrest and prosecution of professional auto thieves; and (3) increase public education about how to protect against auto theft.



HELP PUT THE BRAKES ON AUTO THEFT

USE THE LAYERED APPROACH TO PROTECTION

LAYER ONE: Lock your doors, close your windows completely, don't leave belongings visible in your car and park in well-lit areas.

LAYER TWO: Invest in audible alarms, steering column collars, steering wheel lock or brake locks, theft deterrent decals, window etching, or other identification markers in or on vehicle.

LAYER THREE: Install a vehicle immobilizer, smart keys, fuse cut offs, kill switches, starter or fuel disablers, or wireless ignition authentication.

LAYER FOUR: Invest in a tracking system and put your vehicle on a tracking system that emits a signal to law enforcement. If the vehicle is moved, the system will alert the owner and the vehicle can be tracked by computer.

LAYER FIVE: When cold weather comes in, many drivers are tempted to warm up their vehicles before hitting the road. Please do not give thieves an opportunity to steal your vehicle while it is warming up. Never leave a running car unattended.



If you see something, say something! Contact local law enforcement if you see suspicious activity in your neighborhood.

If you need further information or wish to report insurance fraud or an auto theft related matter, please contact us:

Insurance Fraud Hotline (877) 807-4010

Visit our website at www.osi.state.nm.us

Report suspected fraud on the Criminal Division page and look for the “Click [here](#) to file a complaint” link.