

## CRIMES OF OPPORTUNITY UPDATE AS OF 19 APRIL 2020

There hasn't been any appreciable change in the rate of all categories of Crimes of Opportunity (Burglary of Residence, Theft - all types, Burglary of Vehicle and Theft of Vehicle) except one - Burglary of Vehicle.

The consequence of everyone limited to traveling only as necessary and to be otherwise confined to home, it's reasonable to assume that, with the driving-age children's cars, one or two spouses and maybe extended family members together, there is a limit to the means by which to observe or have a secure parking place for each and every vehicle.

A larger the number of vehicles parked in the street, for example, is an invitation to thieves as easy targets, thus increasing the odds some of those vehicles will be burglarized.

Thus far during these first 2-weeks in April, the Burglary of Vehicle rate is double that of the entirety of March. Locally, within the area of interest (5-mile radius), there were one-each at 24XX Garden Brook Trail, 4XX Arrowhead Pt. Road, 25XX Red Valley Dr., and 1-each at 8XX and 10XX Sugar Brook Dr.

There were none reported in the Woodlake. However, in close proximity, there was one-each reported at 73XX and 75XX Sparta Rd., and one Burglary of Vehicle reported at 55XX Denmons Mountain Rd.

Despite that, given the nature of Crimes-of-Opportunity, this isn't the time to relax. It is your opportunity to evaluate, reassess and improve on the crime prevention and deterrence measures currently employed.

### Definitions:

**Crime Prevention** – *Active measures/means taken that physically obstruct, block or prevent unauthorized access/entry to property by an individual, i.e.: fencing, locked gates, steel doors, double locks and/or deadbolt locks installed, shutters closed on windows and/or sliding glass doors – locked and secured with “Charlie Bars” installed*

**Crime Deterrence** – *Passive measures/means taken to discourage crime: i.e., signage, watch dogs, motion detection and high-illumination lighting, security cameras (inside and out), alarm systems, indoor lights/radios set on timers, vigilant mindful neighbors and participation in Neighborhood Watch and/or Vacation Watch, frequent/sporadic LEO presence, constantly employ common sense home/property protection/security practices like putting things away and out of sight.*

From Best (Most Secure) to Worst (Least Secure) here are steps you can take to avoid being a victim of Burglary of Vehicle:

- Park vehicle in locked garage.
- Doors locked, alarm set, all valuables removed, nothing left in plain view parked in lighted driveway near the house in view of security camera.
- Doors locked, alarm set, all valuables removed, nothing left in plain view parked in (lighted) driveway in view of security camera.
- Doors locked, alarm set, all valuables removed, nothing left in plain view parked, near the house in view of security camera.
- If on the street: doors locked, alarm set, all valuables removed, nothing left in plain view, parked as close to the house as possible and near/under a working streetlight.
- Otherwise: Doors locked, windows rolled up, secure anything of value in the trunk, glovebox or a securable locker, leave nothing in plain sight. It would be wise to have an inventory of valuable items (description, serial numbers, pictures, etc.) for a record in case the car is stolen.

**Lock Your Doors** This seems obvious but worth repeating, up to a quarter of vehicle thefts are from unlocked cars, according to some law enforcement agencies. Even if you're running into the store for a coffee, that's too long to leave your vehicle's contents open for the taking. Simply locking the doors will deter those who might just be waiting around for an easy target.

**Be Tidy** Almost any worthless personal item that's visible from the outside -- even an empty shopping bag -- could be seen as containing valuables. If you have a SUV that leaves your cargo area visible, consider getting a cover. Most can be fitted with inexpensive retractable covers to help keep shopping bags or other gear out of sight.

**Hide Everything From View** Don't tempt thieves, hide your electronics and accessories well out of sight-or better yet, bring them with you or lock them up in a portable car safe. The evidence alone might be enough to pique the interest of thieves, so hide that too, including power plugs, telltale iPod adapters, or navigation -system windshield suction-cup mounts, and even put the cigarette lighter back in place

**Completely Close Windows and Sunroofs** No, it's not just because thieves might reach in through the gap and open your locks with a coat hanger. Open windows will disable the pressure sensor in some car alarms, leaving the vehicle more vulnerable to break-in and potentially giving thieves more time before the alarm sounds

**Get An Alarm** If you don't have an alarm, get one. The noise alone may be enough to scare away a thief and stop the break-in in progress. Something to consider, many less-expensive new cars have remote entry but not a true alarm.

**Park For Visibility** Park in a busy, well-lit area, and avoid concealment from larger vehicles, fences, or foliage. Except for the most brazen thieves, the greater the chances are that someone might see a crime in progress, the lower the chances are that the potential thief will attempt it.