



Neighborhood Watch Newsletter

February 2010

This newsletter is a publication by the South Pasadena Police Department, Crime Prevention Unit. Officer Richard Lee
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Auto Burglaries

This past month, we along with our surrounding cities, saw a rise in auto burglaries.

The most targeted item stolen was the portable GPS systems. These portable GPS systems continue to be a popular item stolen around the San Gabriel Valley.

Portable GPS systems makes an attractive target, especially when it is left in it's cradle attached to the windshield in plain view. Purses, wallets, cell phones and I-pods were also popular items taken, but anything left in plain view was stolen.

The most common method of entry was simply by smashing a window.

The majority of the auto burglaries occurred while the vehicle was parked on the streets and in carports, in both apartment buildings and single-family homes.

Nighttime through early morning hours continue to be the most popular times when the auto burglaries occur.

We have also seen thieves take parts off of the exterior of vehicles. Parts such as catalytic converters, tires/rims and car batteries have been popular.

(Continued next column)

Here are some tips to remember:

- *Always lock your door and roll-up the windows. Remember that an unlocked vehicle is **NOT** a burglary, but only a theft.*
- *Never leave valuables in plain view, instead lock them in the trunk.*
- *At night, park in well-lit areas and turn your wheels to the curb to prevent anyone from taking your tires.*
- *Record the serial and model number of the car stereo, or engrave your driver's license number on the stereo.*
- *Take remote garage openers with you. Once a garage opener is taken, the thief can come back later.*

The Crime Prevention Unit offers these **FREE** services

- Engravers to mark your property "Community Opportunity for Property Security Program."
- Home Inspection Surveys.
- Email alerts of crime bulletins and weekly crime summary.

If you would like to start a Neighborhood Watch Group or receive future copies of this newsletter, please contact the Crime Prevention Unit.

Crime Statistic Map

To know where crime is occurring in South Pasadena, look at the monthly Crime Statistic Map on the back of this page.

2009 Top Stolen Vehicles In South Pasadena

In 2009, there was a 13% decrease in stolen vehicles compared to 2008. However, for the ninth consecutive year, Hondas and Toyotas were the most popular vehicles stolen in South Pasadena.

Hondas accounted for over half the vehicles stolen in South Pasadena, accounting for roughly 54% of all vehicles stolen in 2009. Toyota were again a distance second place accounting for 15% of all vehicle stolen in 2009.

The list below shows the top vehicles by make that were stolen in South Pasadena for 2009:

Honda	54%
Toyota	15%
Acura	10%
Audi	3%
Chevy	3%
Ford	3%

By make and model, the Honda Civic was the top vehicle stolen for 2009 followed by the Honda Accord, Toyota Camry and Acura Integra.

The list below shows the top vehicles stolen in South Pasadena for 2009 by make and model:

- '00, Honda Civic
- '94, Honda Civic
- '91, Honda Civic
- '91-92, Honda Accord
- '88-'91, Toyota Camry

Over half the vehicles stolen were parked on the streets, followed by vehicles parked in carports and on driveways.