



City of La Porte

Established 1892

Police Department

Recognized as a Best Practices Agency by
the Texas Association of Police Chiefs



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**LPPD asks community to help in
detering thieves during the Holidays**



With the Holiday season now approaching, La Porte Police Department would like to recommend some precautions like securing your homes and vehicles. Members would also like to ask that citizens remain cognizant of the valuables we each carry with us and leave in our vehicles.

For the most beneficial personal protective measures when shopping, Police advise carrying small amounts of cash and paying for purchases with a debit or credit cards. Of course, citizens are reminded to always beware of surroundings and look for people standing around with no apparent purpose, as they may be looking for an opportunity to commit a criminal act. Additionally, community members are encouraged to use stationary objects as a means to remember where a car is parked, while police also recommend parking in well-lit areas.

Burglary of Motor Vehicle offenses remain one which truly gets under their skin. Thieves and vandals may be someone whom they just saw walking along the roadside, yet had no reason to stop. Or perhaps, a thorough neighborhood patrol didn't expose the criminal hiding in the shadows. Therefore, as thefts from inside of unlocked cars break-ins continue to be common throughout the region, the La Porte Police Department (LPPD) is asking for the help of their area citizens in deterring these easily preventable crimes.



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Regardless of the time of year, it is important to consider just how easy a target your vehicle may be for would-be car burglars. Beyond the obvious acts of leaving cars unlocked and unattended overnight, or leaving your car running as you run into the convenience store, day care center, or post office, it is important to remember that car burglars never take a break. Although simple oversights such as unlocked doors and valuables left in plain sight are easily the two most common causes for becoming a victim, there are other ways in which you may unknowingly be attracting criminals.

Statistically, few crimes affect such a wide range of people as an event where their vehicle is burglarized or intentionally damaged. In order to aid the La Porte Police in the prevention of such crimes, and help each resident enjoy a crime-free environment, please follow these **three simple steps** which have been shown nationwide to be effective means of motor vehicle burglary deterrence.

- 1. Lock any unoccupied vehicles.** City-wide, an overwhelming percentage of reported burglaries involve unlocked vehicles. Not only do unlocked vehicles make easier targets for criminals, but once inside a vehicle, burglars often choose small, easy to carry, items which typically do not have serial numbers recorded and can also be sold for a quick profit. Purses, wallets, laptops, iPads, cell phones, stereo equipment, and loose change are items particularly sought after. Simply recording model and/or serial numbers, and removing any valuables from plain sight, can deter criminals and enable the police to track items.
- 2. Remove valuables.** While locking doors is a major deterrent of theft, a determined thief who can see your valuables or those recently purchased gifts for the holidays may go the extra mile to enter your vehicle after simply looking through a window. Equally important, if you have an electronic device, stereo system, or other illuminated piece of technology, be aware that glowing items serve as a beacon for thieves as they walk or drive along residential neighborhoods and store parking lots.
- 3. Report suspicious people walking around neighborhoods as soon as possible.** Reporting suspicious people to the police helps track movements and patterns of criminals which may also link them to other crimes. Sadly, analysis nationwide has revealed that only half of vehicle burglaries are ever reported; leaving an uphill battle for police in combating such a trend. However, armed with knowledge of such events, and community assistance, your police department can continue their primary mission of fighting crime.



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The La Porte Police Department wishes all of our citizens, its employees, and incoming visitors a safe and happy holiday season. To report suspicious activity, please contact the La Porte Police Department at 281-471-2141.