



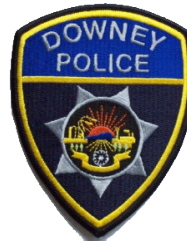
City of Downey

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City of Downey

Police Department

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PRESS RELEASE

CARL D. CHARLES, CHIEF OF POLICE

Downey, CA, June 7, 2016:
Vehicle Burglaries

The Downey Police Department is asking the public to remain vigilant of any suspicious activity in their neighborhood. This is important because often times this activity can lead to criminal activity. We are requesting that if you see anything that seems suspicious to you, please call the police immediately. Be prepared to explain why the activity is suspicious or unusual, and to give detailed descriptions of the suspicious persons or vehicles. This information will assist the responding officers as they arrive to investigate. Many crimes thwarted by the police are a direct result of citizen calls. Usually the public is the first to notice something unusual in the neighborhood and is the best source of information for the police. A good partnership between the community and the police department is of paramount importance and essential to curtailing criminal activity within our city.

Vehicle Burglary is one crime that can be greatly affected by citizen participation. These crimes happen everywhere and the city of Downey is not exempt. Vehicle Burglaries typically leave victims feeling violated and fearful, but can be prevented in many cases. Criminals tend to be opportunists and often work in groups of two or more. They may also have a look-out to warn them of police or potential witnesses. It is also common for them to arrive in a vehicle which they may park nearby or in a driveway. Residents can help protect their vehicles by making their vehicles less of a target.

Here are some important tips to help prevent a vehicle burglary:

TIPS:

- One of the most important things to do is call the police to report a crime or any suspicious activity. You can remain an anonymous caller.
- Always lock the doors to your vehicle, even when you are away from the vehicle for a short time.
- Close all windows and sunroof.

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- Remove all valuables from your vehicle. If you cannot take personal property with you, place the items in your trunk, but do not move these items to the trunk while in public view.
- Do not leave any mail in your vehicle. These items have your name, address and possibly contain personal financial information.
- Park in well-lit areas. At home, park your vehicle near porch lights. If you cannot park in a garage, install motion detection lights, which will illuminate your driveway at night.
- Set any alarm or anti-theft device that is installed on your vehicle.

To provide information ANONYMOUSLY, call Crime Stoppers at (800) 222-TIPS or by texting the letters TIPLA, plus, to CRIMES (274637) or <http://www.lacrimestoppers.org/>.

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