

# CRIME ALERT BULLETIN

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## Burglary to Vehicle Criminal Activity



**Date Issued:** January 18, 2008

**Crime Alert No.** 08-01  
**From:** Community Strategies – Crime Prevention Specialist  
**Subject:** Burglary to Motor Vehicle  
**Beats:** Community Wide Alert

The City of Evanston's Community Strategies Division, Crime Prevention Specialist would like to inform you of a series of vehicle burglaries and criminal damage to vehicle reports that have occurred over the past two weeks.

### **SUMMARY:**

The Evanston Police Department has taken several burglary to motor vehicle reports where the item taken has been a GPS system. The vehicles were entered either by force (broken window) or were unlocked vehicles. The Evanston Police Department would like to remind residents to remove visible items from their vehicle when the vehicle is not occupied. Other items that should be removed are radar detectors, CD's, stereo components that are not mounted down, computers, book bags and other portable items. **IF AN ITEM IS NOT IN PLAIN VIEW, IT WILL DETER THE CRIMINAL FROM WANTING TO ENTER THE VEHICLE.**

### **PREVENTION STRATEGIES TO PREVENT BECOMING A VICTIM OF VEHICLE THEFT**

- NEVER LEAVE YOUR VEHICLE UNLOCKED
- NEVER LEAVE ANY KEYS IN YOUR CAR
- NEVER LEAVE YOUR VEHICLE WINDOWS PARTIALLY OPEN
- DO NOT LEAVE ITEMS OF VALUE IN YOUR VEHICLE SUCH AS; PURSES, WALLETS, CHECKBOOKS, CREDIT CARDS, MONEY, COMPUTERS, CAMERAS, BRIEFCASES, CELL PHONES, JEWELRY, BACKPACKS, PRESENTS, ETC.
- WHEN POSSIBLE, TAKE YOUR GARAGE DOOR OPENERS INSIDE YOUR HOME OVER NIGHT
- INSTALL A BURGLAR ALARM
- INSTALL A MOTION SENSING LIGHT NEAR RESIDENTIAL DRIVEWAYS
- WRITE THE MAKE, MODEL AND SERIAL NUMBER DOWN IMMEDIATELY AFTER PURCHASING A STEREO SYSTEM, COMPUTER, CAMERA, OR ANY ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT ETC. KEEP THIS INFORMATION IN A SAFE PLACE INSIDE YOUR RESIDENCE.

- CONSIDER WRITING YOUR NAME OR DRIVER'S LICENSE NUMBER IN PERMANENT MARKER ON ITEMS SUCH AS CD'S, GARAGE DOOR OPENERS, GYM BAGS, BACK PACKS OR OTHER ITEMS OF SIGNIFICANT VALUE WHICH ARE PREDOMINANTLY KEPT IN YOUR VEHICLE.
- REMEMBER\*\*A STOLEN ITEM CAN'T BE ENTERED INTO THE STOLEN DATA BASE WITHOUT A SERIAL NUMBER OR OTHER IDENTIFYING NUMBER SUCH AS A DRIVER LICENSE OR VICTIM NAME. THESE IDENTIFIERS SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASE OUR CAPABILITY OF MATCHING STOLEN PROPERTY TO THE VICTIM.
- IF YOUR CHECKBOOK, CREDIT CARD ATM CARD OR CELL PHONE IS STOLEN, IMMEDIATELY CONTACT THE APPROPRIATE BANKING INSTITUTION, CREDIT CARD COMPANY OR CELL PHONE PROVIDER TO NOTIFY THEM AND CANCEL THE SERVICE.
- CONSIDER MAKING PHOTO COPIES OF YOUR CREDIT CARDS WITH THE CONTACT NUMBER TO REPORT LOST/STOLEN CARDS. KEEP THE PHOTO COPIES IN A SAFE SECURE PLACE IN THE EVENT YOU NEED THE INFORMATION AFTER A THEFT.
- CONSIDER FORMING A NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM. IF INTERESTED CONTACT CRIME PREVENTION 847-866-5019
- IF YOU SEE A SUSPICIOUS PERSON TRYING DOOR HANDLES OR LOOKING INTO VEHICLES, CALL 911 OR THE NON-EMERGENCY NUMBER 847-866-5000.

<http://www.cityofevanston.org/departments/police/index.shtml>