

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE

NORTH CAROLINA



Department of Police

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PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

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Community Awareness Message – Motor Vehicle Burglary

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In an effort to reduce crime and to protect your property, the Jacksonville Police Department has developed this Community Awareness Message to keep our community informed of current public safety issues. The Jacksonville Police Department is committed to safeguarding our community. It is our belief that through information sharing and your cooperation and informed participation, crime can be reduced. Please take a moment to review the listed information that has been developed to address a current crime trend. If you would like any additional information on how to protect your property, please contact our Community Services Division at 910-938-6520.

Motor Vehicle Burglary

Burglaries from motor vehicles are becoming more prevalent, especially at apartment complexes, shopping centers and other areas in which a large quantity of vehicles are parked.

Don't let thieves see this as an opportunity to take what you have worked hard to purchase and acquire. Items most commonly stolen from vehicles include: GPS Devices, briefcases, cash, computers, cellular phones (and chargers), I-pods/MP3 players, CDs and CD cases, garage door openers, jewelry, keys, mail, purses, stereos, tools and wallets (even if under the seat).

The Jacksonville Police Department provides the following steps you can take to prevent becoming a victim.

- Remove visible items from your vehicle. If you leave items visible in your vehicle, you are a target. Be aware that someone may be watching as you put a wallet, purse or cell phone under your seat, especially at a busy location. Take your items with you.
- Lock It Up! Lock your vehicle and take your keys, even for quick errands.

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- Lock the trunk, hatchback or tailgate to block access into the vehicle.
- Close all windows, including vent or wing windows and sunroofs.
- Purchase an alarm and use it. Some might believe that alarms no longer make a difference. However, they do remain an effective deterrent to a burglar. Criminals will choose the easiest target. With two cars to choose from – one with an alarm and one without – they will burglarize the one without.
- Park Safely! At home, park in the garage, if you have one. Lock your car and all garage doors.
- Park in a well-lighted area.
- Check to see that your vehicle is visible from pedestrian and vehicular traffic.

If you have any information about crime that has or may be occurring in your neighborhood, please contact the Police Department at 455-4000 and/or Crime Stoppers at 910-938-3273.

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