

## Community Crime Alert – Increase in Stolen Vehicles

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**01/15/2015**

**Incident:** Community Crime Alert – Increase in Stolen Vehicles

**Contact:** Commander Tom Higgins, 805-339-4431

**Location:** Ventura Harbor area (Harbor Cove lot on Spinnaker and along Spinnaker Dr.), and within the Surfer's Point area / Ventura County Fairgrounds (Figueroa Blvd., Shoreline Dr., and Paseo De Playa)

**Date/Time Occurred:** November 23, 2014 through January 14, 2015

**Officer(s) Involved:** Ventura Police Officers

**Victim(s):** Numerous

**Suspect(s):** Unknown

**Report #:** Numerous

**Narrative:**

Over the last month and a half, November 23, 2014 through January 14, 2015, VPD has seen a significant increase in the number of reported stolen vehicles within the Ventura Harbor area (Harbor Cove lot on Spinnaker and along Spinnaker Dr.), and within the area known as Surfer's Point neighboring the Ventura County Fairgrounds (Figueroa Blvd., Shoreline Dr., and Paseo De Playa). During this time frame seven thefts of vehicles were reported, vs. the same time period from last year in which zero incidents were reported.

The majority of victims in these cases have been surfers who tend to leave their keys behind believing they have taken preventative measures to hide their keys in or around their vehicle while they go surfing. Unfortunately, it is believed the individuals committing these crimes loiter in the area and conduct some form of surveillance, or case the area and then commit their crimes once the individual(s) have left the area to go surf.

Our department understands the inconvenience associated with taking one's keys into the water however, there are some steps you can take to reduce your chances of becoming a victim.

First and foremost, we urge community members to be vigilant and observant and to immediately report any and all suspicious persons and activity to us at 805.650.8010 (24 hr. non-emergency number) or 911 in the event of an emergency.

Although we cannot endorse any specific companies/products we highly recommend conducting an internet search for products that allow one to secure their keys while surfing. A search will reveal a number of companies that offer products ranging from a key pocket on a board leash, key pocket on board shorts, pocket in wet suit, combination locks that secure to your vehicle, locks that secure to a trailer hitch, and many others. Conversely, you can visit a local surf retailer and speak with them regarding products that may be available.

If there is a parking attendant in the area you may want to advise the individual to also report suspicious persons and activity if they witness any.

Always lock and close your doors and windows, and remove items in plain view.

Park in a high traffic area.

Talk to your family, friends, and neighbors to advise them, and get involved in a Neighborhood Watch program. In an effort to facilitate a virtual Neighborhood Watch program and help foster neighbor-to-neighbor communications, our department has partnered with Nextdoor.com, a private social network for neighborhoods. Information on Nextdoor.com is available on the department's website at [www.venturapd.org](http://www.venturapd.org).

View various Calls For Service via the department's Interactive Crime Map at: [www.cityofventura.net/pd/crime/calls](http://www.cityofventura.net/pd/crime/calls).

Connect and keep up with our department as we issue crime alerts, press releases, crime maps, and other valuable crime and safety information by following us on Facebook at: [www.facebook.com/venturapd](http://www.facebook.com/venturapd), or visit our website at: [www.venturapd.org](http://www.venturapd.org).

Working together we can make a difference in our community.