

## Community Crime Alert – Increase in thefts from unlocked vehicles



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**Incident:** Community Crime Alert – Increase in thefts from unlocked vehicles

**Contact:** Watch Commander, 805-339-4416

**Location:** Multiple locations throughout the City of Ventura.

**Date/Time Occurred:** Feb 14th, 2014 to Feb 15th

**Officer(s) Involved:** Ventura Police Patrol Officers and Detectives

**Victim(s):** Numerous Ventura residents

**Suspect(s):** Unknown

**Report #:** Numerous

**Narrative:**

Our department is issuing a Community Crime Alert due to the increase we've recently seen in thefts from unlocked vehicles. Over a thirteen-hour period last night and this morning we investigated fifteen (15) reported thefts from vehicles, all of which were vehicles left unlocked.

**Vehicle Crimes:**

As far as vehicle burglaries, the average number is approximately eleven (11) per week. The suspect(s) may be casing vehicles or merely testing car door handles checking for items that are left in plain view inside a vehicle. Computers, purses, luggage, wallets, phones, documents, electronics, etc., are often the targets.

As far as the individuals committing these crimes they often vary from re-offending parolees, juveniles, drug offenders, or even individuals who live in other cities that come into Ventura to commit these types of crimes. In some cases there may only be one suspect responsible for the commission of the crime; however, often times the individuals work in groups of two to four people with one to two serving as the lookout.

Of course nobody is immune to crime but there are steps you can take to help make a substantial difference.

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

Always lock and close your doors and windows (whether it's your vehicle or residence). Yes, even when you're home we encourage you to keep your garages and doors/windows locked.

Remove items of value from your vehicle. If you must keep an item in your car at least make an effort to hide it from plain view or place it in your trunk (make sure nobody watches you do this of course).

Do not leave your garage door open or unlocked if you are not in the immediate area.

Set your vehicle alarm if you have one.

Lighting is one of the best deterrents to burglary - indoor and outdoor lighting is important.

Talk to your family, friends, and neighbors 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 at [www.venturapd.org](http://www.venturapd.org)

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.