

HOW TO PREVENT A BTFV

BURGLARY/THEFT FROM A VEHICLE

- DO NOT KEEP ANY ITEMS IN YOUR VEHICLE - laptops, cell phone, any item of value or even ANY ITEM AT ALL. Do not keep clothing, small bags, trash or ANYTHING. Leave your car empty. If you must leave items, have them locked in trunk.
- Start '9PM CHECKS' and as you 'close up your house' for the night and turn off lights inside, checking your home doors and windows are locks – also check your vehicle to make sure you locked it and placed keyless fobs in Faraday bags.
- If you tandem park, do not leave your keys to either vehicle in your vehicles.
- Consider Faraday bag in your home to keep key fobs in to protect against signal amplifier technology available to criminals. Some amplifiers are able to connect to key fobs 300 feet away putting you at risk for burglary/theft from your keyless entry vehicle.
- Install motion sensor flood lights near where your vehicles are parked (Ring has a great one that also records motion) and may deter BTFV if a nice flood light is illuminating their activity near your vehicle.
- Notify your private patrol company about an increase of BTFV in your area.
- Do not place your car registration/insurance/anything with your name/address inside your glove box...find another location that is not obvious (i.e. not sun visor, not center console). The thief may be looking for info for check cashing. Protect your identify and personal info.
- Learn your car's storage areas. Some cars have hidden storage under the front seats or under the floor. These areas are often safer because it's difficult for a thief to remember every vehicle's configuration – they'll know the glovebox and middle console storage, but not necessarily the hidden compartment in the passenger seat. If you leave items in the glovebox, lock it – it's not a strong lock, but it will delay them. Keep your glovebox and top box locked.
- Park in well-lit areas. Check your street and report any street lights that are out or not working properly
- Always take your high-value items with you. In fact, take all items with you. This includes laptops and other electronic equipment, your wallet, cellphone and keys.
- Make your car look empty. DO NOT LEAVE ANY ITEMS IN YOUR CAR. If you drive a station wagon or hatchback and the cargo area is empty then leave the cargo cover open (if possible). If you do have to leave things in the car, leave them in the trunk or cargo area with the cargo blind or parcel shelf covering them. Don't just put a jacket or blanket over them as it doesn't fool anyone. Plus, a jacket might have \$20 value so it's worth stealing.
- When you stop for fuel, take the keys out of your car and lock it when you get gas and pay.
- Get a reliable car alarm.

- Fit a wheel lock – it's a big, chunky visual deterrent. Wheel locks go on a car steering wheel or a motorbike's wheel or brake disc.
- Cars with small triangular windows at the back (rear quarter light) are easier to break into because that window can be broken almost silently with the right tool. You might not know how to do it, but thieves will.
- Let your neighbors know if your car has been tampered with because thieves often scout an area and then return to it over several nights.

IF YOU REALLY WANT TO DETER CRIME –

HAVE AN ORGANIZED BLOCK & BE PART OF YOUR MIRACLE MILE NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM! Get your block involved today and benefit for block text alerts and more!

IF YOU ARE A VICTIM OF A BTFV – BURGLARY OR THEFT FROM A VEHICLE:

No matter if your car was locked, unlocked or you are not sure – remember to:

- ***Report the crime to LAPD Wilshire Division station at address below or report online at***
http://www.lapdonline.org/home/content_basic_view/60409
 With the increase in BTFV, it is very important all incidents are reported to make sure statistics are reflective of crime in area
- Contact your block captain to ask them to email your neighbors on your block to inquire if anyone has video footage/photos that may have captured crime - try to give them a time frame so they don't spend as much time going through their video recording.

MIRACLE MILE NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH