

**** SAN JOAQUIN CO. POLICE AGENCIES LOOK TO COMBAT AUTO THEFT ****

Investigators from the Delta Regional Auto Theft Team are hoping to raise awareness and prevent auto theft throughout the county by launching a county wide campaign.

Starting April 13, 2015, officers will begin a campaign that will focus on reducing auto theft through awareness and prevention. In addition to the ongoing suppression efforts, such as arresting thieves, recovering stolen vehicles, and prosecuting auto theft offenders, local police agencies will focus on prevention efforts by giving away free anti-theft steering wheel locking devices to owners of the top nine most stolen cars in San Joaquin County.

Investigators have identified the top nine most stolen vehicles in San Joaquin County as:

1. 1989 to 1997 Honda Accord
2. 1988 to 2000 Honda Civic
3. 1987 to 1996 Toyota Camry
4. 1990 to 1998 Acura Integra
5. 1993 to 1998 Saturn SL
6. 1992 to 1994 Nissan Sentra
7. 1989 to 2001 Chevy Pickup
8. 1987 to 1995 Toyota Pickup
9. 1987 to 1995 Nissan Pickup

The only three requirements are:

1. Own a vehicle on the top nine most stolen vehicle list.
2. Vehicle must be currently registered.
3. Be a resident of San Joaquin County

Auto theft in San Joaquin County has been a continuing challenge for local law enforcement officers. For the past several years San Joaquin County has ranked nationally in the top 10 areas as having the highest auto theft rates per capita.

A common sense approach to protection is the simplest and most cost-effective way to thwart would-be thieves. Auto theft investigators recommend you should secure your vehicle even if parking for a brief period. You should always:

Remove your keys from the ignition

Lock your doors/ close your windows

Park in a well-lit area

Never leave keys to vehicles you own inside any of your vehicles

The Delta Regional Auto Theft Team, which is commonly referred to as Delta RATT, is a multi-agency team of investigators comprised of various law enforcement agencies within San Joaquin County.

To pick up a free lock, simply stop by any of the participating agencies on or after April 13, 2015. Supplies of the steering wheel locks are limited, and will be given out on a first come first serve basis. Participating agencies include:

Escalon, Lodi, Manteca, Ripon, Stockton, Tracy Police Departments
Stockton and Tracy CHP
San Joaquin County Sheriff's Office
Lathrop Police Services
SUSD Police Department

For residents of Escalon, you may pick one up at Escalon City Hall, located at 2060 McHenry Ave. Even if you do not own any of the listed vehicles, you may still receive a lock.

Thank you,

Mike Borges
Chief of Police