

Tarpon Springs Police Department  
For Immediate Release: March 24, 2010

The Tarpon Springs Police Department is proud to launch two initiatives to help citizens combat vehicle burglaries. The majority of our vehicle burglaries are a result of unlocked vehicle doors, most others are a result of "Smash and Grab" thefts when items are left in plain view. Thus, the Tarpon Springs Police Department is taking preventative steps to partner with the community in the following educational programs: "Move It or Lose It" and "Lock It or Lose It".

Nobody wants to be the victim of a crime, but leaving your car doors unlocked or displaying items of value inside your vehicle may put you at a much greater risk of becoming a victim. Not only will you have the expense of replacing stolen items, the burglary may result in damage to your vehicle. These burglaries can also open the door to identity theft that may not be discovered for months or years later, after damage to your credit has been done.

If you're wondering what the burglars look for within a vehicle, the answer is simple: anything and everything. Common targets are: GPS, audio equipment, cash, purses, bags, cellular phones, personal documents, cameras and anything of value. Criminals are looking for an easy target. By locking your doors, you have just made it more difficult for the burglar, who is looking for the easiest opportunity. By taking items of value with you or simply hiding the items in the trunk, you can greatly reduce the risk of becoming a victim.

In a pro-active response to crime, officers of the Tarpon Springs Police Department, as part of their commitment to community policing, will be placing flyers on vehicles around the city to ensure that our citizens are aware of the dangers of leaving vehicles unlocked or failing to hide items. It is simply a reminder to help prevent a crime. As the burglar is seeking an "easy target", citizens can help combat crime by removing the opportunity. It takes about 30 seconds for a burglar to enter your vehicle and steal items; however, it takes much less time to lock your doors or stow your valuables.

Here are some simple tips to deter vehicle burglaries:

- 1) Close your windows and lock your vehicle's doors (even if you are going to be gone for a few minutes).
- 2) Remove valuable items from plain view in the passenger compartment (take them with you or lock them in the trunk).
- 3) Park in well-lit areas or around other vehicles.
- 4) Park in your garage, if possible, rather than on the street (and close your garage door).
- 5) Use a car alarm, if your vehicle has one.

If you see someone suspicious or have information concerning criminal activity, please call the Tarpon Springs Police Department (Emergency: 911, Non-emergency: 727-937-6151). We look forward to helping reduce crime within our city.

**HELP FIGHT CRIME**



**The Tarpon Springs Police Department reminds you to:**

**MOVE IT  
OR  
LOSE IT!**

**Due to recent burglaries, we request that you move bags and items of value to your trunk area, so that they are not visible from the exterior of the vehicle. Please remove the opportunity for crime. Don't be an easy target.**

**It takes about 30 seconds for a burglar to enter your vehicle and steal your belongings – but only about 15 seconds to stow the items in your trunk.**

**Also, please report any suspicious activity in the area to the Tarpon Springs Police Department.**

**Tarpon Springs Police Department  
Emergency – dial 911  
Non-Emergency – 727-937-6151**

**HELP FIGHT CRIME**



**The Tarpon Springs Police Department reminds you to:**

**LOCK IT  
OR  
LOSE IT!**

**The majority of vehicle burglaries are attributed to unlocked car doors. Leaving the vehicle unlocked provides the criminal with easy access to your belongings. Please remove the opportunity for crime. Don't be an easy target.**

**It takes about 30 seconds for a burglar to enter your vehicle and steal your belongings – but only about 2 seconds to lock your vehicle doors.**

**Also, please report any suspicious activity in the area to the Tarpon Springs Police Department.**

**Tarpon Springs Police Department  
Emergency – dial 911  
Non-Emergency – 727-937-6151**