

## Message from the Chief



Auto Burglary is a “Crime of Opportunity”. Every 2 ½ minutes in Texas, another vehicle is broken into. Anything left inside may be of value to a thief contemplating burglarizing your vehicle.

Burglary of Motor Vehicles (BMVs) are a continuing threat for us all. Thieves can easily enter a vehicle, often sight unseen. Increasingly, thieves are using personal and financial information stolen from vehicles to commit identity theft.

By following the preventive measures outlined in this brochure, you are taking steps to protect your automobile, personal possessions, and identity.

Arika N. Carr  
Chief of Police

## Burglary of Motor Vehicle Report Card

Pass

### Congratulations!

- ✓ Your vehicle has passed a random inspection.
- ✓ Your actions helped your Arcola Police Department deter crime.

Officer: \_\_\_\_\_  
Badge: \_\_\_\_\_

Fail

- Doors unlocked.
- Windows opened or cracked.
- Packages or valuables in plain view.
- Keys left in vehicle.
- Other observations:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

We are sorry to inform you that your vehicle did NOT pass a random inspection.

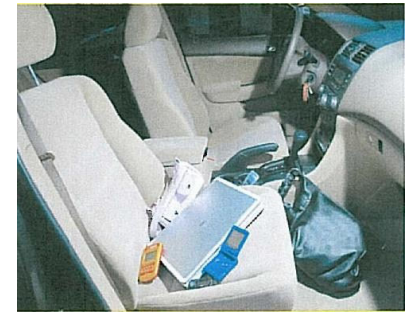
Your inactions make it easier for criminals to commit their crimes.

Please make the necessary precautions to protect your property and yourself

## Arcola Police wants YOU to Practice T-L-C

**Take Out Valuables  
Lock Your Vehicle  
Close Your Windows**

### A Guide to Preventing Auto Burglaries



When you practice TLC, you reduce your chances of being a victim.

### YOU ARE THE WINNER!

- Your windows do not get broken.
- You do not have to wait for an officer to come out and take a report.
- You do not have to order another driver's license, credit card, etc.
- You do not expose yourself to identity theft.
- You do not have to rent a car or miss work.
- You do not have to wait for your car to be repaired.
- Your insurance rates do not go up.
- You do not have to wait for reimbursement.
- You do not have to pay your insurance deductible.
- You do not have to shop for replaceable items.
- You do not lose irreplaceable items.
- You assist the City of Arcola to achieve the goal of having a lower crime rate.

**Arcola Police Department**  
Non-Emergency Number  
(281) 431.5205

If you view a crime in progress or any suspicious person or event, please call 911.

## AUTO BURGLARIES ARE PREVENTABLE

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Most thefts from motor vehicles are preventable. There are just a few things you need to do to prevent them. Once you realize the steps you need to take, we need to do them all the time:

### PRACTICE T-L-C

#### **Take Out Valuables**

If you can leave your valuables at home, do so. Otherwise, when you get to your destination, take valuables with you. If you must leave them in your vehicle, place them in your trunk prior to reaching your destination.

#### **Lock Your Vehicle**

Verify that your vehicle is securely locked before leaving the area. Keyless or remote locking systems can malfunction from a low battery, etc. leaving your vehicle unlocked. Make sure it's locked!

#### **Close Windows and Sun/Moon Roof**

Windows and sun/moon roof (if equipped) allow a thief a quick & quiet way to enter your vehicle. Even a crack in the window makes the thief's job so much easier. Verify that your vehicle's windows are rolled up and the sun/moonroof is closed before leaving the vehicle.

## Burglary of Motor Vehicle Prevention Tips

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- ⇒ Always lock your vehicle.
- ⇒ Remove any items of value or with identifying information.
- ⇒ If you must leave belongings inside the vehicle, make sure they are hidden from sight (the trunk is the best place).
- ⇒ Park your vehicle inside your garage (even during the day) and close the garage door.
- ⇒ Never leave vehicle or house keys inside your vehicle.
- ⇒ Have a reputable dealer install a vehicle alarm.
- ⇒ If you see someone in your neighborhood who doesn't belong there, report it to the police.
- ⇒ If you see someone who appears nervous, is pulling door handles, looking in windows, or bumping into vehicles (checking for alarms), notify the police.
- ⇒ If you see a vehicle slowly riding through (or circling) the neighborhood or a parking lot, report it to the police.
- ⇒ As always with suspicious persons and vehicles, try to get the most detailed description, location, and license plate information.