



Contact

For Immediate Release

Mark Hanna
(512) 326-7616

February 19, 2010

ICT Assists Heart of Texas Auto Theft Task Force

The Insurance Council of Texas (ICT) has joined with the Heart of Texas Auto Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority in a crime prevention campaign aimed at preventing auto thefts and auto burglaries in central Texas. The program involves the funding and distribution of signs that read, “**LOCK** your car, **TAKE** your keys and **HIDE** your belongings.”

The Heart of Texas (HOT) task force located in Waco will receive **LOCK, TAKE** and **HIDE** signs that will be distributed and placed throughout central Texas. The program is just one of several crime prevention efforts that the Task Force utilizes to prevent auto thefts and burglaries in the area. Other efforts include surveillance operations, intelligence gathering and public advertising.

“We welcome ICT’s help in encouraging motorists to take a more defensive approach in protecting their vehicles from burglars and auto thieves who are on the prowl,” said Michelle Snyder with the HOT task force.

In Texas, an estimated 100,000 vehicles are stolen and another 250,000 are burglarized each year. It is also estimated that half of the vehicles stolen had the drivers’ keys left in the ignition and/or unlocked doors.

The **LOCK, TAKE** and **HIDE** signs will be placed in large public and private parking areas such as shopping malls, city parks, restaurants, apartment complexes and other areas where there is parking congestion.

Insurance Council of Texas spokesman Mark Hanna said the **LOCK, TAKE** and **HIDE** signs have become one of the more popular crime prevention programs that Task Force members have utilized to deter criminals.

“The Insurance Council of Texas has donated the **LOCK, TAKE** and **HIDE** signs to more than a dozen law enforcement agencies around the state,” said Hanna. “The success of the program shows in the demand that we have had for these signs.”

ICT initially started the crime prevention program in Austin on March 2, 2005, and has since begun similar programs in Round Rock, Garland, Mesquite, Frisco, Celina, Del Rio, Houston, Laredo, Brownsville, Highland Village, Galveston, Beaumont and College Station.

The Insurance Council of Texas is the largest state insurance trade association in the country consisting of more than 500 property and casualty insurers writing business in Texas.

###