



Contact

For Immediate Release

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South Plains Task Force Gets ICT Assistance

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

The task force located in Lubbock will receive **LOCK, TAKE and HIDE** signs that will be distributed and placed throughout the Lubbock area in a 28 county region.

Lubbock County Sheriff Kelly Rowe said the signs are an important reminder to all motorists. “The public has a certain amount of responsibility in crime prevention and following the advice on these signs will go a long way in helping law enforcement reduce auto thefts and burglaries,” said Sheriff Rowe.

Lubbock District Attorney Matthew D. Powell said the signs will help unsuspecting motorists deter the criminal element. “The people who break into cars are simply looking for an opportunity,” said Powell. “Our citizens can remove those opportunities by locking their cars, taking their keys and hiding their valuables.”

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.

Kat Anderson with the Auto Theft Task Force said the signs will be going up in both public and private parking areas.

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

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 as well as offer good advice for drivers.

“The Insurance Council of Texas is proud to be a part of a program that urges motorists to protect their automobile and their belongings through this simple message,” said Hanna. “The signs should also serve as a reminder for everyone to be aware of their surroundings when they are leaving and entering their vehicle.”

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, College Station, Galveston, Beaumont and Waco.

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.

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