



Branford Police Department

Crime Prevention Bulletin

Auto Theft Awareness:

Avoiding Motor Vehicle Theft

On average, approximately **33** vehicles are stolen each year in the town of Branford. In 2017, Branford Police responded to a total of **44** motor vehicle thefts.

**Auto thefts are a crime of opportunity...
A vast majority of all motor vehicle thefts
this year could have easily been
prevented:**

76%

*of motor vehicles that were stolen in
2017 were left unlocked with the keys
inside.*

76% of stolen vehicles were left unlocked with a key inside.

- 15% were stolen by an acquaintance with key access
- 9% had the ignition tampered with

77% of vehicles stolen in 2017 were recovered

- Vehicles were recovered within an average of *16 days* from the day they were reported stolen; however, the amount of time before recovery ranged anywhere from 0 days to 232 days
- Most vehicles were recovered in poor condition, often showing damage consistent with motor vehicle accidents
- None of the 3 motorcycles stolen this past year were recovered

2017 MV Thefts by Type of Establishment

Target Location	# of Thefts
Condo/Apartment Complexes	18
Single Family House	19
Motel	4
Other	3

*Though there were more vehicles stolen from houses than apartment/condo complexes in 2017, the number of thefts from apartment complex parking lots doubled in the second half of the year.

Tips



- Utilize your garage if you have one
- Always lock your vehicle doors & windows
- Never leave the keys inside your vehicle
- Park in well-lit areas
- Keep all items of value concealed
- Never leave your vehicle running unattended- not even for "just a minute"
- Consider installing an anti-theft alarm system
- Install a "kill switch"
- Be alert, proactive and keep your guard up- if you see something suspicious, contact police

REMEMBER: Time is of the essence for vehicle theft- the more difficult it is for a criminal to gain access, the more likely it is that they'll move on from your car to an easier target

Your car doesn't have to be expensive, new or flashy to make it an appealing target. Most stolen vehicles are used for transportation and "joyriding" - therefore the type of vehicle used to do so isn't of great importance to the thief. Always take precaution!