



ROCHESTER POLICE DEPARTMENT

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"Dedication, Pride, Integrity"

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Chief Of Police



August 5, 2009

On behalf of Chief David G. Dubois, the Rochester Police Department releases the following

Portable electronics devices such as GPS units make attractive and easy targets for thieves targeting unsecured motor vehicles that are parked and unattended. Since January 1, 2009 Rochester Police have taken 15 separate reports of GPS units being stolen from motor vehicles. The majority of these units were left in motor vehicles that were parked, unsecured and the GPS units left in plain view.

Theft from motor vehicles are all too frequently a crime of opportunity for thieves as they often pick vehicles that are not properly secured and have items of high value in plain sight. Since the beginning of the year Rochester Police have taken 83 thefts from motor vehicle reports. In large the most common factor among these thefts is vehicles are left unsecured.

In order to protect yourself and make your vehicle and belongings less attractive to thieves, officers of the Rochester Police Dept offer these steps to help deter thefts from your vehicles:

1. Always secure your vehicle by rolling up windows and locking the vehicle, even when only going into a store for short shopping trip.
2. Remove portable belongings from plain view. Remove GPS units from window locations, and never leave purses or wallets in vehicles.
3. When purchasing portable electronics please be sure to **write down the serial number** and store it in a safe place. Should these items be stolen it will aid in their recovery and prosecution of the thief.
4. When parking your vehicle overnight, park off the street in a driveway close to a residence if possible. If not possible try to park in open well lit areas that have minimal areas of natural hiding spots, example are overgrown hedges or shrubs.
5. Install motion-activated lighting in vehicle parking areas.
6. Help protect your friends and neighbors by noting suspicious persons who appear to be "target shopping" in areas of numerous motor vehicles by calling police.

For Chief David Dubois

Sgt. Gary Boudreau