



EL SEGUNDO POLICE DEPARTMENT

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DAVID CUMMINGS, CHIEF OF POLICE

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

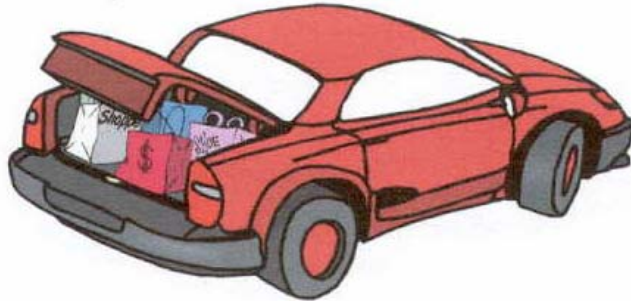
“Move It or Lose It!” Avoid Becoming the Next Victim El Segundo Police Need Your Help.

The El Segundo Police Department prides itself in protecting one of the safest cities in Southern California. In fact, our Vision is to be recognized as an organization that provides unparalleled service through professionalism, training, innovation and partnership with the community.

One crime you can really help us prevent is auto burglary. Auto burglary cases can be very difficult to solve as, typically, little to no physical evidence is left behind. These thefts occur during all hours of the day, affecting both residential and business areas. We continue to see many burglary cases that have occurred when the victim left their property in plain view inside of the vehicle. These crimes of opportunity could have possibly been avoided if preventative measures were taken. Auto burglary prevention, like all crime prevention, is the act of taking away the criminals ability and/or opportunity to commit a crime. With a little time and diligence, ***you can make a difference in your vulnerability to auto burglary.*** It generally takes less than 20 seconds to secure your valuables, but if your valuables are left in plain sight it takes on average 30 seconds for a thief to break in and steal them.

The El Segundo Police Department’s **“Move It or Lose It!”** theft prevention campaign is one way of educating citizens how the simple act of placing

valuables into the trunk of their car or out of sight **before** reaching your destination or the act of taking valuables with you from the car can significantly reduce the likelihood of being a victim of theft.



What is Auto Burglary?

Auto Burglary is theft of property from a **secured** vehicle. This is a felony.

What is Theft from Auto?

Theft from auto is theft of property from an **unsecured** vehicle. This is a misdemeanor if property loss is less than \$400 and a felony if over \$400.

What Items are Most Commonly Stolen from Vehicles?

- Briefcases
- Cash/Coins
- Cell phones (& chargers)
- CD's and cases
- Day planners
- Garage door openers
- Gym bags
- iPod/MP3 players and docking stations
- Jewelry
- Keys
- Laptop computers
- Mail
- Portable navigation systems
- Purses (even if behind the seat)
- Stereo / faceplates
- Tools
- Third row seats (SUV's)
- Video monitors
- Wallets (even if under the seat)

How can Auto Burglary lead to Residential Burglary?

Garage door opener
+
Registration or Mail in car
=
Residential Burglary

- **Vehicle Registration** – Black out your home address on your DMV registration and photocopy it. Keep the copy, not the original, in your car.
- **Mail** – Do not leave outgoing or incoming mail in your car, especially where visible. This has your name and address on it.
- **Garage Door Opener** – Avoid leaving this in your car if possible.
- **Keys** – Never leave keys in your car.

Does Your Car Look Like This to a Thief?



What Steps Can You Take to Prevent Becoming a Victim?

Remove visible items (particularly portable electronics) from your vehicle. If you leave items visible in your car, you are a target. Be aware someone may be watching as you put a wallet, purse, or cell-phone under your seat, especially at a gym. Take these with you or lock them in your trunk before arriving to the parking lot.

Lock Your Car!

- Lock your vehicle and take your keys, even during quick errands.
- Lock the trunk, hatchback or tailgate to block access into the car.
- Close all windows, including vent or wing windows and sunroofs.

- Buy an alarm and use it. Many people believe that alarms no longer make a difference; however, they do remain an effective deterrent to a burglar. Criminals will choose the easiest target. If they have two cars to choose from, one with an alarm and one without, they will likely burglarize the one without.

Park Safely!

- At home, clear out that garage and park in it. Lock your car and all garage doors.
- Park in a well-lit area.
- Park where others will easily and frequently see your car, which is called “Natural Surveillance”
- Avoid alleys.

Do not hesitate to call 911 to report suspicious persons wandering around parking lots/neighborhoods (particularly after hours) and/or looking into cars as they walk by. El Segundo Police officers cannot be everywhere, so we count on good people to be our “eyes” and “ears” and report these types of suspicious activities as they are occurring.

The El Segundo Police Department continues to proactively impact crime through directed patrol tactics, specialized deployments, apprehension of suspects, and public education and awareness efforts. ***We are asking that every citizen do their part in helping to fight crime by taking both preventative action and spreading the word about this ever growing problem. Working together we can make a difference.***

Should you have any questions concerning vehicle burglaries, other crimes or neighborhood watch, please contact the El Segundo Police Department’s Crime Prevention Specialist Laurie Risk at 310-524-2274. Should you need to report an in-progress crime, please call **911**. For non-emergency reports, please call 310-524-2760. This is also the number we suggest you program into your cell phone for emergency or non-emergency calls within the city. Doing so can reduce unnecessary delays due to cell towers mis-routing your call to another public safety dispatch center.

Contact: Danny Kim, Sergeant
Investigative Division
El Segundo Police Department
310-524-2261

