

ABTPA Mission

- Provide financial support to law enforcement agencies for motor vehicle theft and burglary enforcement teams
- Provide financial support to local prosecutors; judicial agencies; and neighborhood, community, business, and non-profit organizations for programs designed to reduce the incidence of motor vehicle theft and burglary
- Conduct educational programs designed to inform automobile owners on how they can prevent vehicle burglary and theft
- Fund a statewide vehicle theft recovery registration program
- Establish and maintain a uniform program to prevent stolen motor vehicles from entering Mexico

Auto Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority
4000 Jackson Ave
Austin, TX 78731



**20 Years of Preventing
Automobile Theft in Texas**

About Us

The Texas Auto Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority (ABTPA), is charged with assessing and combating vehicle burglary and theft problems in Texas.

Since ABTPA's inception 20 years ago, vehicle theft rates in Texas have been reduced by 70%. This translates into lower automobile insurance rates and a higher level of safety for all Texas drivers.

The ABTPA is funded by a small assessment fee on every vehicle insurance policy purchased in Texas. This money is then distributed in the form of grants to local law enforcement agencies across the state to fund their vehicle theft and burglary task forces and other relevant projects. In addition, each grantee provides at least 20% or more cash match of ABTPA funding.

ABTPA Board

The ABTPA is governed by a board made up of Governor appointees and the Executive Director of the Texas Department of Public Safety. Appointed board members serve staggered six-year terms and include law enforcement representatives, consumer representatives and insurance representatives.

ABTPA Grantee/Task Force Functions

The ABTPA awards money to task forces and various projects that work toward fulfilling the ABTPA's mission. Some project categories that are eligible for grant funding include: law enforcement, prosecution/adjudication/conviction, prevention, reduction in the sale of stolen parts, and educational/media campaigns.

Task forces are responsible for:

- Recovering stolen vehicles and property
- Apprehending car thieves and vehicle burglars
- Conducting proactive investigations
- Investigating carjackings
- Investigating vehicle arson
- Conducting awareness and education events for the public
- Providing assistance to other law enforcement agencies
- Conducting salvage inspections
- Conducting auto insurance fraud investigations
- Assisting with Homeland Security in protecting our borders
- Assisting law enforcement agencies with heavy equipment thefts and cargo thefts
- Conducting foreign vehicle inspections

Public Awareness

Public awareness has proven to be instrumental in the agency's effort to drive down vehicle thefts and burglaries. To expand public awareness, the ABTPA task forces regularly hold VIN etchings, registration drives for the H.E.A.T. program (a voluntary statewide theft-deterrent vehicle registration program), and other public outreach events.

In addition, ABTPA's public awareness campaigns remind drivers to hide their things, lock their cars and take their keys whenever they leave a vehicle. If followed, these precautionary measures go a long way toward preventing auto theft and burglaries.

Gateway Crimes

Auto theft is a "gateway crime" meaning it's often the first step to committing other serious crimes, including:

- Drug manufacturing
- Drug smuggling
- Human smuggling
- Weapons trafficking
- Burglary, robbery, and murder
- International terrorism

It's just one more reason why vehicle theft prevention is so important.

Border Issues

The ABTPA also works to prevent stolen vehicles from crossing into Mexico, where they can be used in crimes that include:

- Drug cartel activity
- Gang violence
- Human smuggling
- Drug smuggling
- Endangerment to Homeland Security.