



AUTO THEFT IS DOWN!



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Congratulations to all the FY 2009 grantees! Between 2008 and 2009, auto theft in Texas was reduced by 10%. There were 76,617 auto thefts in 2009, compared with 85,411 auto thefts in 2008.

This reduction shows the impact of a coordinated effort across the state as our grantees work together to combat auto theft. It also illustrates the dedication and commitment of the ABTPA task force members to go above and beyond their duties to investigate auto burglaries and thefts, recover stolen vehicles, and arrest auto burglars and thieves.

In FY 2009, ABTPA grantees continued to conduct bait car operations to catch suspects for auto burglary and theft. Grantees purchased and operated license plate readers to read and track license plates to help recover stolen vehicles.

To help with auto burglary prevention, we unveiled the statewide auto burglary “Shadowed” campaign to help combat the issue in Texas. The award-winning campaign focuses on the idea that wherever Texans go, car thieves are there to burglarize and/or steal their vehicles.

Lastly, in 2009, the 81st Texas Legislature passed HB 3097 which created a separate state agency, the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV). As of November 1, 2009, the ABTPA, along with three other Texas Department of Transportation divisions and offices (Vehicle Titles and Registration, Motor Carrier, and Motor Vehicles), transferred their roles, responsibilities and powers to the TxDMV. As ABTPA and TxDMV make this transition, you will continue to see references to TxDOT, and the TxDOT logo, on TxDMV information as operations move from TxDOT to the new TxDMV.

Thank you for your support and interest in the ABTPA.

Chief Carlos Garcia

Chairman

Texas Automobile Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority.



ABTPA Board of Directors

Left top to bottom

Chief Carlos Garcia, Chairman
Law Enforcement Representative, Brownsville

Major Jesse Flores
Criminal Law Enforcement, DPS, Austin
Representing ex-officio Director Mr. Steven C. McCraw

Ms. Linda Kinney
Consumer Representative, Dripping Springs

Mr. Ken Ross
Insurance Representative, Houston

Right top to bottom

Mr. Rich Watson
Insurance Representative, Austin

Sargeant Mark H. Wilson
Law Enforcement Representative, Fort Worth

Ms. Margaret "Jerry" Wright
Consumer Representative, El Paso



ABTPA Board of Directors

The ABTPA Board of Directors includes two law enforcement representatives, two consumer representatives and two insurance industry representatives who are appointed by the Governor of Texas. Board members serve staggered six-year terms. The executive director of the Texas Department of Public Safety serves as an ex-officio member. Board members are committed both professionally and personally to the program's continued success. Through the guidance and counsel of the Board of Directors, ABTPA has been able to continually reduce the incident of auto thefts and auto burglary throughout Texas.

ABTPA Staff

ABTPA's five-member staff, located in Austin, administers and monitors grants to ensure their effectiveness and accountability.

left to right

Barbara Matthys
Administrative Assistant

Jan Gregg
Grant Administrator

Charles Caldwell
Director

Julia Bardnell
Public Affairs Coordinator

Jennifer Minor
Grant Assistant-not pictured



History

The Texas Automobile Theft Prevention Authority (ATPA) was established by the 72nd Texas Legislature in 1991 to create a statewide effort to reduce auto theft. The 80th Legislature amended the ATPA mission through H.B. 1887 to include emphasis on vehicle burglary in addition to theft. The resulting agency, known as the Texas Automobile Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority (ABTPA), is charged with assessing the automobile burglary, automobile theft, and economic automobile theft (burglary or theft committed for financial gain) problems in Texas and analyzing methods and providing financial support to combat those problems.

ABTPA supports a statewide network through grants, theft reduction initiatives, and public awareness/education. Since 1991, ABTPA has funded and managed 514 grants totaling \$211,872,111. Additionally, these task forces have recovered a total of 1.6 million vehicles valued at \$11.2 billion since the program began.

TxDMV Transition

In June 2009, Governor Rick Perry signed into law HB 3097, effective September 1, 2009 which created a separate state agency, the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV).

On November 1, the roles and responsibilities of ABTPA officially transferred to the TxDMV, along with three other Texas Department of Transportation divisions (Vehicle Titles and Registration, Motor Carrier, and Motor Vehicles). The ABTPA staff has remained at its current location at Camp Hubbard in Austin and all current contact info has remained the same, including telephone and fax numbers.

The TxDMV is governed by a nine-member Board of Directors appointed by Governor Rick Perry to six-year terms. By law, board members must include: one county tax assessor-collector, two franchised auto dealers, one independent auto dealer, one representative from the vehicle manufacturing or distribution industry, one representative from the motor carrier industry, one county or city law enforcement representative, and two customer (public) representatives.

ABTPA Activities

ABTPA functions as the lead organization in a statewide network of law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, insurance industry representatives, local tax assessor-collectors, community organizations, and concerned citizen groups. In addition to providing guidance and oversight, the ABTPA awards grant funds to agencies, organizations, and concerned parties in an effort to raise public awareness of vehicle theft and burglary and implement education and prevention initiatives.

ABTPA Funding

ABTPA is funded by a legislatively mandated assessment consisting of a \$1 annual fee for each vehicle per insurance policy. The fee is paid by individual policyholders and collected by the insurance companies.

Funded programs are currently located in counties which account for 95% of the state's theft problem.

While 94% of ABTPA appropriations are expended on grant related activity, only 6% are earmarked for administrative costs which include:

- ABTPA staff, located in TxDOT
- An attorney located in the OAG to provide legal counsel to the ABTPA Policy Board
- Staff for the Help End Auto Theft (H.E.A.T.) vehicle registration program located within DPS.

ABTPA Committees

Insurance Fraud Committee • The Insurance Fraud Committee (IFC) comprises representatives from insurance companies, Office of the Attorney General, Texas Department of Insurance, and law enforcement agencies who address the growing problem of insurance fraud. The Committee identifies goals for addressing issues relating to vehicle theft “give-ups or walkaways,” VIN switches, arson, and insurance fraud.

Grantee Advisory Committee • The Grantee Advisory Committee (GAC) considers matters of concern to both grantees and ABTPA and leverages the experience, knowledge, and insight of law enforcement professionals with regard to the auto theft problem. In 2009, the GAC established three subcommittees:

Legislative Subcommittee • Reviews legislative issues and provides recommendations to the ABTPA staff on the most efficient approach to the issue from the grantees' perspective, informs ABTPA grantees on the progress, status, needs, and results of legislation affecting the programs, and assists ABTPA staff in gathering information on the legislative effects of grant projects.

Communications Subcommittee • Focuses on improving communications between ABTPA staff, Board, and industry partners on auto theft and burglary initiatives, assists with identifying new and better ways to advertise various ABTPA events and activities, and provides input and guidance to ABTPA staff on grantee communication and feedback when requested.

Operations Subcommittee • Provides guidance on the effect of changes to administrative requirements and rules on the grant programs, assists with the development or implementation of new legislation or grant requirements (if necessary), reviews the needs and operation changes for ABTPA grantees in regards to funding, jurisdictional, or administrative changes for agencies involved in grant programs, and advises ABTPA staff on the effect of administrative changes on grant projects staff before change becomes effective.

Border Solutions Committee • The Border Solutions Committee (BSC) is a bi-national committee comprised of local, state, and federal representatives from the United States and Mexico. The BSC was established by the Texas ABTPA in 1992 to foster communication with the four Mexican states which border Texas to reduce the number of stolen vehicles on both sides of the border.

FY 2009 Grants Funded Analysis Per Category

Law Enforcement Detection/Apprehension	\$10,834,486
Prosecution/Adjudication/Conviction	\$0
Prevention: Anti-Theft Devices/Vehicle Registration Programs	\$67,557
Reducing Sale of Stolen Vehicles or Parts	\$2,572,338
Public Awareness and Education	\$275,637
Total Grants Funded	\$13,750,000

Financial Summary	FY 2009 Allocated Budget	FY 2009 Expended
Sources		
Allocation	\$13,783,835	
Budget Adjustments	\$1,253,979	
Total	\$15,037,814	

Expenditures for Year End

ABTPA Grants	\$13,750,000	\$13,472,988
Professional Services	\$786,000	\$790,052
Office Operations	\$287,857	\$79,184
Administrative Services Cost	\$213,957	\$209,560
Total	\$15,037,814	\$14,551,784

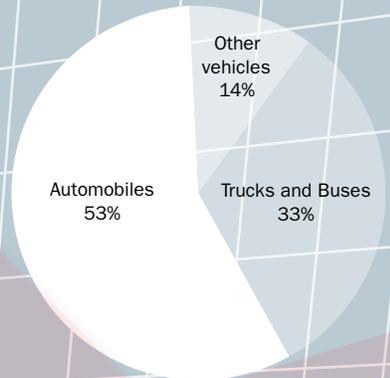
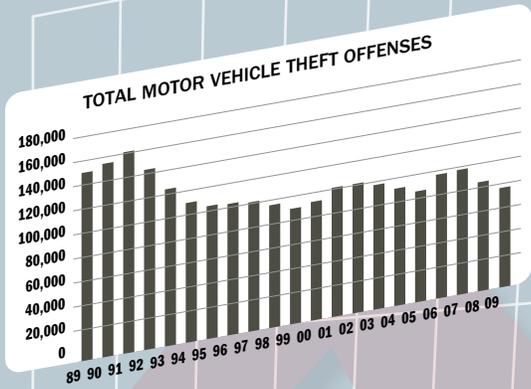
Excess of Sources Over (Under) Expense \$486,030

Ending Expended Balance \$486,030

Total Unexpended Balance \$486,030

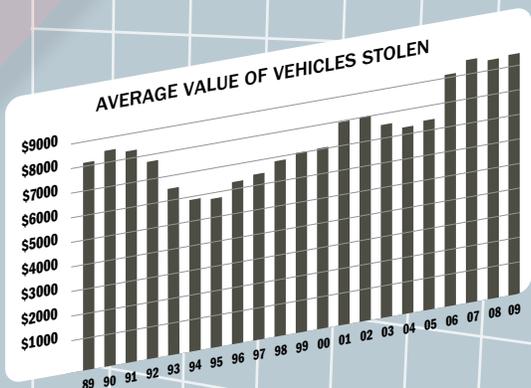
Expenditures for Year End to include Accounts Payables for professional services, office operations and grant expenditures outstanding.

2009 Motor Vehicle Theft Comparisons

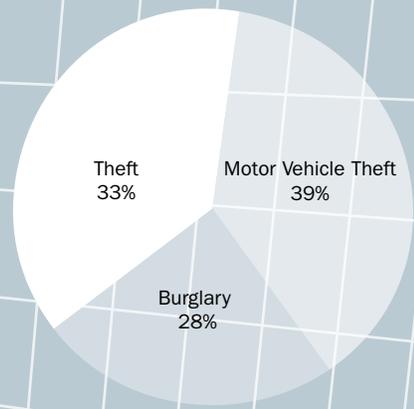


In 2009, 76,617 vehicles were stolen in Texas, accounting for an economic loss totaling \$738,487,759. This is a decrease of 10% from 85,411 in 2008.

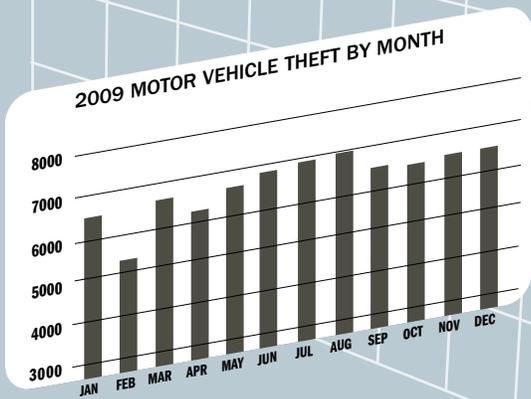
Motor Vehicle Theft by Type



The average dollar loss per motor vehicle theft was \$9,980, an increase from \$9,661 in 2008.



Motor Vehicle Theft Property Crime by Value



Motor Vehicle Theft Property Crime by Volume

Top 20 Texas Counties-Auto Theft by County

1	Harris	21,931
2	Dallas	15,862
3	Bexar	6,498
4	Tarrant	4,883
5	Hidalgo	2,627
6	Travis	2,502
7	El Paso	2,138
8	Webb	1,524
9	Montgomery	866
10	Collin	852
11	Denton	830
12	Cameron	800
13	Potter	722
14	Gregg	671
15	Galveston	648
16	Nueces	638
17	Lubbock	607
18	Jefferson	603
19	Fort Bend	567
20	McLennan	475

These 5 counties accounted for 68% of auto thefts in Texas

These 15 counties accounted for 19% of auto thefts in Texas

Top 10 Vehicles Stolen In Texas

- 1 Ford Pickup
- 2 Chevy Pickup
- 3 Dodge Pickup
- 4 Honda Civic
- 5 Chevy Tahoe
- 6 Honda Accord
- 7 GMC Pickup
- 8 Ford Taurus
- 9 Toyota Camry
- 10 Chevy Impala

Top 20 Texas Counties-Burglary of Motor Vehicle

1	Harris	64,763
2	Dallas	38,938
3	Tarrant	24,654
4	Travis	20,101
5	Bexar	19,170
6	Hidalgo	9,660
7	Collin	5,532
8	Nueces	5,444
9	Potter	5,142
10	Cameron	4,552
11	El Paso	4,235
12	Lubbock	4,058
13	Webb	3,279
14	Fort bend	3,257
15	Montgomery	3,174
16	Bell	3,056
17	McClennan	2,998
18	Denton	2,927
19	Jefferson	2,773
20	Brazos	2,750

These 5 counties accounted for 59% of auto thefts in Texas

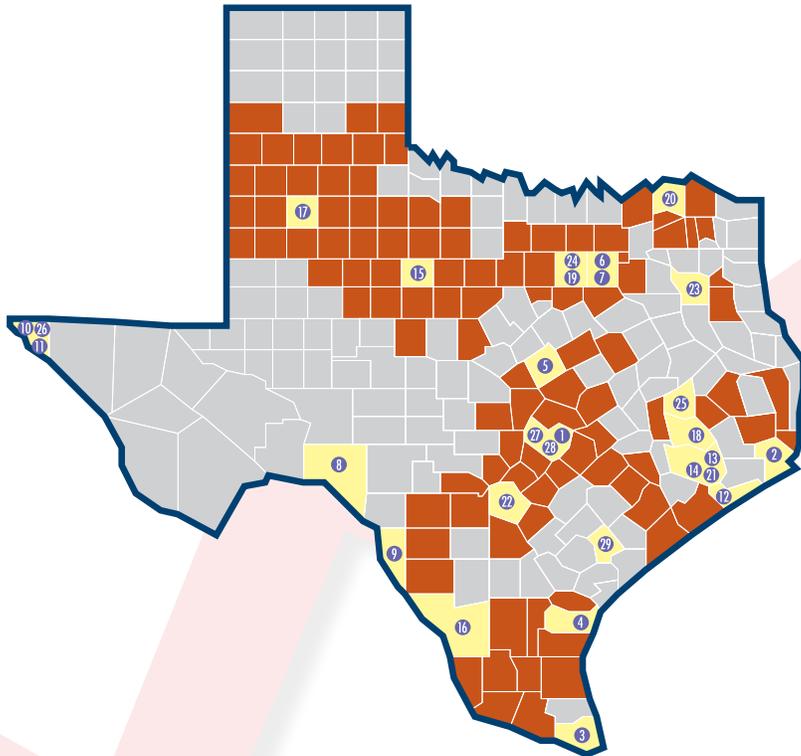
These 15 counties accounted for 22% of auto thefts in Texas

2009 Burglary of Motor Vehicle Comparisons

Total Burglary of Motor Vehicle Offenses					
Year	Theft from MV	MV Parts	Total	Registered Vehicles	Population
1999	154,303	54,437	208,740	17,724,030	20,044,141
2000	160,400	53,368	213,768	17,748,875	20,949,316
2001	179,602	62,363	241,965	18,190,307	21,334,855
2002	194,619	69,914	264,533	18,498,861	21,723,220
2003	197,959	74,696	272,655	18,894,068	22,103,374
2004	197,419	77,086	274,505	18,608,927	22,490,022
2005	196,832	70,068	266,900	19,347,906	22,859,968
2006	188,946	66,168	255,114	19,347,906	23,507,783
2007	193,382	69,120	262,502	21,185,173	23,904,380
2008	193,678	66,027	259,705	21,171,729	24,326,974
2009	210,938	74,563	285,501	21,432,323	24,873,773

Total Value of BMV Stolen			
Year	Theft from MV	MV Parts	Total
1999	\$112,196,9112	\$28,445,145	\$140,642,057
2000	\$132,043,274	\$27,689,662	\$159,732,936
2001	\$150,290,040	\$32,324,142	\$182,614,182
2002	\$162,169,683	\$38,239,538	\$200,409,221
2003	\$161,762,578	\$42,513,891	\$204,276,469
2004	\$160,914,812	\$40,885,774	\$201,800,586
2005	\$168,299,072	\$38,889,733	\$207,188,805
2006	\$167,285,589	\$46,813,954	\$214,099,543
2007	\$149,887,024	\$42,732,127	\$192,619,151
2008	\$144,024,902	\$40,533,766	\$184,558,668
2009	\$166,722,273	\$53,592,935	\$220,315,208

In 2009, 285,501 thefts from motor vehicles including motor vehicle parts offenses occurred in Texas, accounting for an economic loss totaling \$220,315,208.



- Grantee's Home Area
- Grantee's Coverage Area
- No Coverage

ABTPA Grant Awards

1. City of Austin	\$407,979
2. City of Beaumont	\$547,919
3. City of Brownsville	\$1,135,434
4. City of Corpus Christi	\$492,682
5. Coryell County	\$306,421
6. City of Dallas	\$529,360
7. Dallas County	\$1,026,971
8. City of Del Rio	\$141,929
9. City of Eagle Pass	\$186,579
10. City of El Paso	\$1,031,828
11. El Paso Tax Assessor	\$67,557
12. Galveston County	\$476,815
13. Harris County	\$1,040,287
14. City of Houston	\$1,009,230
15. Jones County	\$56,475
16. City of Laredo	\$380,995
17. Lubbock County	\$421,324
18. Montgomery County	\$464,523
19. North Texas University	\$275,637
20. City of Paris	\$136,233
21. City of Pasadena	\$70,000
22. City of San Antonio	\$1,033,748
23. Smith County	\$401,643
24. Tarrant County	\$1,055,220
25. Texas Department of Criminal Justice	\$59,400
26. Texas Dept of Public Safety - B.A.T.I.C.	\$187,255
27. Texas Dept of Public Safety - Training	\$84,730
28. Travis County	\$657,313
29. City of Victoria	\$64,513

Total Fiscal Year 2009 \$13,750,000

In the beginning of FY 2009, grantees in the east Texas region had limited operations or emergency response responsibilities due to Hurricane Ike. Despite the disaster, our grantees were able to carry out their auto burglary and theft responsibilities in their assigned areas.

Due to advanced anti-theft technology and increased vehicle manufacturer prevention practices, the vehicle criminal may no longer be able to sustain himself/herself by relying on unlocked doors and keys left in vehicles. More and more criminals are turning to insurance fraud, parts racketeering, illegal exportation, and even identity theft to successfully perpetrate vehicle crime schemes. Because of this, auto theft and burglary investigators must incorporate additional tools, such as advanced surveillance technology, forensics and bait cars, to catch thieves.

Below are sample single-incident task force reports:

Insurance Fraud

San Antonio Regional Auto Crimes Team (ReACT) • ReACT, Selma Police Department, DPS Motor Vehicle Theft, SWAT and San Antonio Police Department East Patrol ran a search warrant in San Antonio in search of a stolen 2005 Harley Davidson Motorcycle that had been reported to Selma PD. It appeared the owner of the motorcycle reported it stolen in 2005 when in fact he was still in possession of the motorcycle. The actor was paid off by the insurance company and the motorcycle remained hidden until it was discovered in March 2009. A disgruntled female with an axe to grind tipped off police to the location of the motorcycle. Selma PD was notified and obtained a search warrant for the location. SWAT was included on this search warrant as the actor was alleged to have supplied the ammunition used in a police ambush approximately 10 years prior. The search warrant was executed without incident, and the stolen motorcycle was located and recovered. Recovery value on the motorcycle was \$13,000, and charges of insurance fraud were filed against the actor.

Border Initiatives

El Paso Auto Theft Prevention Task Force • In May 2009, an El Paso ATTF detective was working a southbound Border Star Operation when he was contacted by Mexican Customs advising him that they were holding a subject with a possible stolen vehicle. The subject drove from El Paso into CD Juarez through the Stanton Bridge. Once on the Mexican side of the bridge, he was pulled over by Mexican Customs for secondary inspection. The inspectors noticed that the ignition switch was broken so then contacted the detective. An NCIC check revealed the vehicle was stolen out of Las Cruces on May 1, 2009. The El Paso ATTF detective completed a translation of the hit and e-mailed it to Mexican Customs. The subject was charged in Mexico with Theft on a Foreign Country. The detective received the entire Mexican report on a later date. Vehicle Recovered: 2001 Hyundai Accent.

Bait Cars

Austin Police Department Auto Theft Interdiction Project • In 2009, the Austin Police Department Auto Theft Interdiction Project responded to a bait vehicle call. The vehicle drove into the parking lot of an apartment complex. A felony car stop was made and the driver was searched. During the search of subject's baseball hat, a white rocky substance was discovered on the inner lining of his hat. Upon inventory search of the vehicle, an illegal knife with a blade 7" in length was found on the driver's side seat. Driver was arrested for Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle, Possession of a Controlled substance and Unlawful Carrying of a Weapon.

Burglary of Motor Vehicle

Galveston County Auto Crimes Task Force • A Galveston County Auto Crimes Task Force agent was called to assist the League City Police Department with the arrest of two Burglary of Motor Vehicle (BMV) suspects arrested on the same day. The suspects were linked to 25 to 30 BMV's in the League City and Kemah areas. The suspect identified a property fence in the City of Galveston to whom they were selling stolen items. Surveillance on this suspect was established while interviews of the suspects in custody were completed. As of July 2009, three suspects have been arrested and charged with Burglary to a Motor Vehicle and 30 BMV's were cleared.

City of Houston Auto Crimes Task Force • In March 2009, members of the Houston Auto Crimes Task Force were conducting hotel/motel checks when they located a vehicle that was listed as suspicious in a burglary of a motor vehicle case. Upon researching the case and making some inquiries, the officers discovered the vehicle was a rental that was over-due and the rental company was about to report the vehicle as stolen. Surveillance was set up on the vehicle and after a period of time, a suspect got into the vehicle. As she drove off, she was stopped and arrested. During the course of the investigation the person that was identified as renting the vehicle was ultimately arrested and charged with theft. The first person arrested was charged with burglary to a motor vehicle.

Gateway Crimes

San Antonio Regional Auto Crimes Team (ReACT) • While following up on a case, a ReACT detective received information about a suspect involved in a theft of a "Grand Prix" race car located at a specific location. ReACT detectives were dispatched to the area and with the assistance of EAGLE (helicopter unit); they were able to determine the stolen race car was possibly being concealed under a tarp in the backyard. As detectives attempted to contact the suspect inside the residence, they observed the suspect drive pass the front of the home. The actor was stopped and arrested for a Motion to Revoke Probation 18 warrant out of Guadalupe County. The detectives obtained written consent and confirmed the stolen race car. They also found two large marijuana plants, "grow lights" and chemicals. A small amount of methamphetamine was also found in the actor's bedroom. The actor was booked for Theft of Vehicle, Felony possession of Marijuana, Possession of Methamphetamine, and the warrant out of Guadalupe County. The recovered race car was released to its owner. The value of the car and trailer is \$23,000. Property recovered from the trailer at the home is valued at \$5,000.

BATIC

Border Auto Theft Information Center (BATIC) was established in 1994 to assist in the recovery of stolen vehicles from Mexico and the U.S. BATIC provides information to Mexican and U.S. law enforcement personnel via a 1-800 toll free number on inquiries regarding stolen vehicles. Since its inception, BATIC has received 2,063,501 inquiries and recovered 30,246 stolen vehicles. The estimated total of these recovered vehicles is \$406,673,452.

FUGINET

The Texas Department of Criminal Justice – Office of the Inspector General (TDCJ – OIG) maintains the FUGINET database. FUGINET has been instrumental in apprehending parole violators throughout Texas and across the nation. When a violator is identified, relevant information is cross-referenced with various databases in an effort to compile and complete a current investigative case file regarding the parole violator's most recent whereabouts. This data is forwarded to the ABTPA Task Force or other law enforcement agency in the area the fugitive is believed to be residing, so the execution of the arrest warrant can be affected.

Help End Auto Theft (H.E.A.T.)

Texas H.E.A.T. (Help End Auto Theft) is a voluntary statewide vehicle registration program designed as a theft deterrent. Vehicle owners can sign an agreement with a participating law enforcement agency to stop the owner's vehicle anywhere in Texas during the period 1:00 - 5:00 a.m., to verify ownership. Owners can grant additional authority at the time of registration to have their vehicle stopped any time if it is being driven from Texas into Mexico.



Vehicle owners may register their vehicles at most Texas law enforcement agencies. Vehicle owners may also register for H.E.A.T. online at www.txdps.state.tx.us or by calling 800-CAR-WATCH for a mail-order form.

Reduce Auto Theft in Texas (R.A.T.T.)

Reduce Auto Theft in Texas (R.A.T.T.) is the statewide public awareness grant designed to coordinate and support the public awareness efforts of ABTPA and its grantees in preventing and reducing vehicle crime in Texas. R.A.T.T. disseminates and tracks grantees' public awareness activities and maintains 800-CAR-WATCH hotline.

Public Awareness is an integral part of avoiding auto burglary and auto theft. Task forces conduct VIN etchings, HEAT registration drives, and partner with insurance companies, car dealerships, apartment complexes, neighborhood watch groups, and other interested parties to increase awareness about auto crimes.

ABTPA has four public awareness campaigns that aim to remind citizens to prevent auto theft, to take their keys, to prevent auto burglary, and to take extra auto burglary and theft prevention precautions around the holidays.

Watch Your Car campaign

The “Watch Your Car” public awareness campaign is a statewide, multi-media campaign consisting of television and radio public service announcements, billboards, brochures, promotional giveaways, posters, static displays, mobile vehicle displays, annual reports, and a statewide auto theft awareness hotline: 800-CAR-WATCH, through which callers may obtain theft prevention information packets, information on the Texas H.E.A.T. program, statistics, and a variety of other information. “Watch Your Car” materials and services are made available to grantees, crime prevention officers, organizations, and TxDOT’s public information office for distribution to citizens in order to reinforce the public’s awareness concerning vehicle crimes.



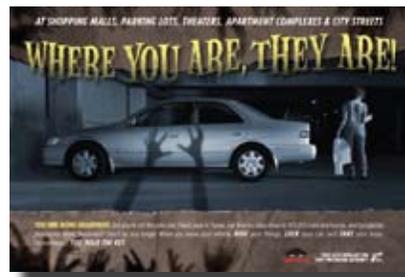
You Hold the Key campaign

The “You Hold the Key” campaign is designed to increase understanding among vehicle owners that leaving doors unlocked and keys in vehicles could make them unsuspecting accomplices in other serious crimes. Of the almost 100,000 vehicles stolen in Texas every year, an estimated 50 percent are the results of Texans leaving their keys in the ignition. The campaign reminds drivers that stolen vehicles can be used as a “gateway” to the commission of other crimes, including drug manufacturing, drug smuggling, weapons trafficking, burglary, robbery, and even international terrorism.



Where You Are, They Are campaign

In 2009, the Auto Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority launched the “You Are Being Shadowed” public awareness campaign to educate Texans that wherever they go, car thieves are there to burglarize and/or steal their vehicles. The secondary messages of the campaign are tailored toward specific regions: border, urban, and rural. The grantee campaign toolkit contains bilingual regional radio PSAs, a :15 animated PSA, four video news releases, and print materials (newspaper, outdoor, internet, poster, and parking lot signage artwork).



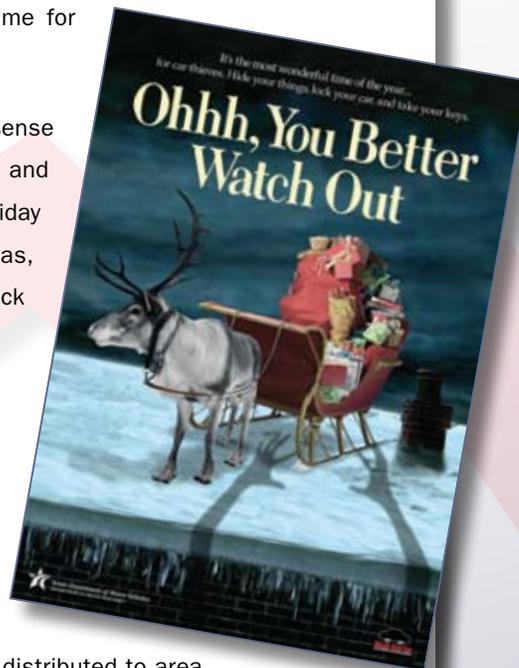
2009 Holiday campaign

To keep Texans informed about the increase risk of auto burglary during the 2009 holiday season, hundreds of ABTPA task force members went out in their communities to remind Texans that “where they are, car thieves are” and that the holidays are a prime time for thieves to strike.

This initiative targeted shoppers that may overlook common sense precautions, especially when dealing with crowded parking lots and rushing from store to store, and to help them make sure their holiday gifts wind up in the right hands. In addition to parking in well lit areas, the campaign reminds drivers that they need to hide their gifts, lock their car, and take their keys.

Partnerships

The Insurance Council of Texas (ICT) partnered with several ABTPA task forces to bring “Hide Lock Take” metal signs to local areas. During 2009, the ICT donated 100 signs to each of the following ABTPA task force: Beaumont, Brownsville, Del Rio, Galveston, and Laredo. The signs help increase awareness for the statewide crime prevention campaign aimed at preventing thefts. They were distributed to area businesses and apartment complexes for display in their parking lots.

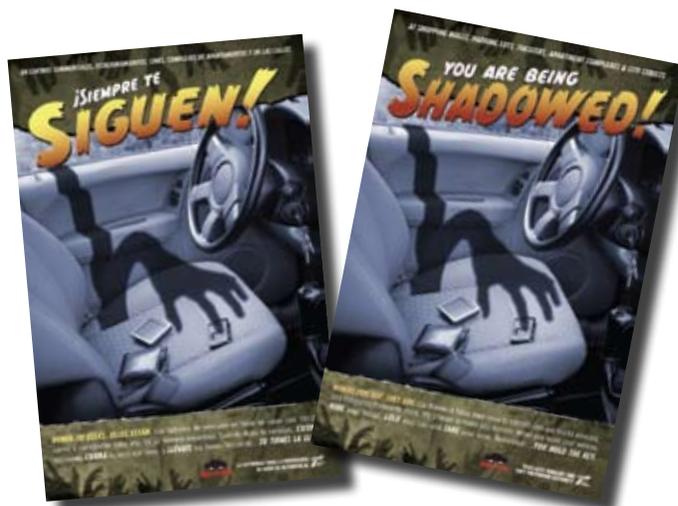


Social Media

ABTPA launched a new facebook fan page and a twitter account to keep the general public informed. ABTPA's facebook page keeps fans and visitors to the page up-to-date on ABTPA events, meetings, and conferences, provides links to PSA videos, news clips, and task force news stories, uploads photos from ABTPA and task force events, shares auto burglary and auto theft prevention tips, and creates a community for those interested in auto theft and burglary prevention to discuss issues.



ABTPA's Twitter account TxAutoBurgTheft provides an outlet for ABTPA to share timely information on events, auto crimes cases, and news with its followers as it happens. Twitter directly connects ABTPA with an audience that is interested in ABTPA and preventing auto burglary and auto theft.



2009 ABTPA Award Winners

ABTPA Chairman Chief Carlos Garcia presented the ABTPA awards to the 2009 winners during the 2009 Annual Conference in Houston. The Steve Davenport award for law enforcement and the Star award for civilian personnel were presented to task force members that go above and beyond every day to make a difference.

The first-ever ABTPA Task Force winners, selected by the ABTPA Board from a list of finalist chosen by ABTPA staff, received their awards for demonstrating outstanding service and dedication in fulfilling the Mission and Vision of ABTPA.

Congratulations to all the 2009 award winners!

- 2009 Steven Davenport Award** • David R. Mericer, Detective, Del Rio Auto Burglary and Theft Prevention/Recovery Unit
- 2009 Star Award** • Ray Palmer, Civilian Property Specialist from the Tarrant Regional Auto Crimes Task Force
- 2009 ABTPA Task Force Award** • Del Rio Auto Burglary and Theft Prevention/Recovery Unit
- 2009 ABTPA Task Force Award** • City of Houston Auto Crimes Task Force
- 2009 ABTPA Task Force Award** • City of Laredo Auto Theft Task Force

2010 Awards

The Telly Awards honor the very best local, regional, and cable television commercials and programs. The 30th Annual Telly Awards received over 13,000 entries from all 50 states and 5 continents. In 2010, both the “Time of Year for Car Thieves” public awareness campaign and “The Shadow” public awareness campaign were awarded Bronze Tellys. Judges score entries on a performance scale and winning entries are recognized and awarded as Silver or Bronze Winners based on the combined scoring of the judges who evaluate each entry.

The Public Affairs and Consumer Education (PACE) Competition is sponsored by the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA) to recognize excellence in public information programs among U.S. and Canadian motor vehicle and law enforcement agencies.

Each year winners are selected for AAMVA's Regions I through IV, as well as the international level, from entries received from the American states and Canadian provinces. The Texas Auto Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority received the PACE Competition Region II Award in 2010 for the “The Shadow”/“Where You Are, They Are” public awareness campaign in the private/public partnership category. The campaign was produced in collaboration with a private corporation or with another public or government agency and is not funded through a federal grant.

U.S. PATENT OFFICE TRADEMARKS

In January 2010, ABTPA was awarded the registered service marks for the *Watch Your Car*® mark and design and for the *You Hold the Key*® mark by the United States Patent and Trademark Office. The marks are used for promoting public awareness of the need for vehicle theft and vehicle burglary prevention, producing television public service announcements on the subject of vehicle theft and vehicle burglary prevention, and direct mail advertising on vehicle theft and vehicle burglary prevention.

Any entity currently using the *Watch Your Car* and/or *You Hold the Key* will need to contact the ABTPA office at 512.374.5101 to obtain official permission to use either service mark.

TEXAS AUTO BURGLARY & THEFT PREVENTION AUTHORITY



Texas Department
of Motor Vehicles



Watch Your Car