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Message from ABTPA Chairman Carlos Garcia



The Texas Auto Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority (ABTPA) —formerly the Texas Auto Theft Prevention Authority (ATPA)—was created in 1991 by the Texas Legislature to help combat the growing auto theft problem in the state. Since its inception, ABTPA—working along with our grantees and other law enforcement, the insurance industry and community partners—has:

- awarded over 570 auto burglary and theft-prevention grants totaling \$239 million to cities, counties, and regions across the state.
- reduced vehicle theft by 70%.
- recovered 1.6 million vehicles that amount to an estimated recovered value of over \$11.6 billion.

Last year, auto theft in Texas was reduced by 11% between 2009 and 2010. There were 68,220 auto thefts in 2010, compared with 76,617 auto thefts in 2009. This achievement shows the impact of a coordinated effort across the state as our grantees work together to combat auto theft. The motor theft rate has decreased by 12.3% from 309.2 to 271.3 motor-vehicle thefts for every 100,000 persons.

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Even with the success of ABTPA over the last two decades, thieves continue to evolve with changing technology. Maintaining a cooperative network of highly skilled and well-trained law enforcement, insurance industry representatives, and other partners is essential to reducing auto theft and burglary in Texas.

Thank you for your support and interest in the ABTPA.

Chief Carlos Garcia
Chairman
Texas Automobile Burglary & Theft Prevention Authority

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 Board of Directors

(left to right)

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

Mr. Rich Watson

Insurance Representative, Austin

Sergeant Mark H. Wilson

Law Enforcement Representative, Fort Worth

Ms. Margaret "Jerry" Wright

Consumer Representative, El Paso

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ABTPA Staff

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

(left to right)

Julia Bardnell

Public Affairs Coordinator

Barbara Matthys

Administrative Assistant

Charles Caldwell

Director

Jan Gregg

Grant Administrator

Jennifer Minor

Grant Assistant



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 542 grants totaling \$225,022,111. Additionally, these task forces have recovered a total of 1.6 million vehicles valued at \$11.6 billion since the program began.

ABTPA Activities

4 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 that 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 within the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV).
- an attorney in the Office of the Attorney General (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 the Texas Department of Public Safety (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 walk-aways,” 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 of Directors, 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 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 before changes become effective.

Border Solutions Committee

The Border Solutions Committee (BSC) is a bi-national committee composed 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 that border Texas to reduce the number of stolen vehicles on both sides of the border.

FY 2010 Fiscal Report

FY 2010 Grants Funded Analysis Per Category

Law Enforcement Detection/Apprehension	\$12,332,525
Prosecution/Adjudication/Conviction	\$0
Prevention: Anti-Theft Devices/Vehicle Registration Programs	\$142,243
Reducing Sale of Stolen Vehicles or Parts	\$2,899,324
Public Awareness and Education	\$275,908
Total Grants Funded	\$15,650,000

Financial Summary Sources

	FY 2010 Allocated Budget	FY 2010 Expended
Allocation	\$15,214,355	
Budget Adjustments	\$2,209,978	
Legislative Reduction	(\$669,103)	
Total	\$16,755,230	

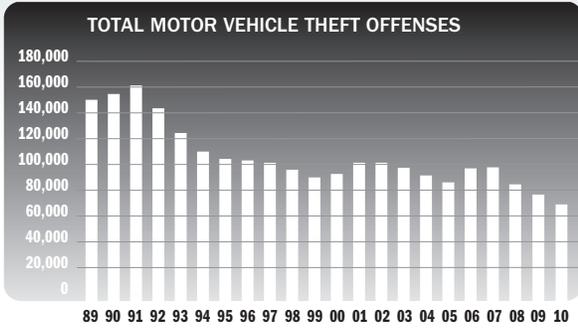
Expenditures for Year End*

ABTPA Grants	\$15,174,637	\$14,830,858
Professional Services	\$1,073,000	\$1,045,183
Office Operations	\$225,364	\$100,700
Administrative Services Cost	\$275,969	\$256,711
Total	\$16,748,970	\$16,233,452

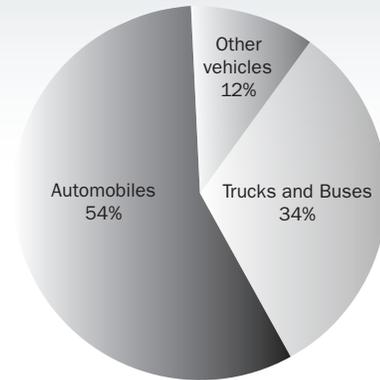
Excess of Sources Over (Under) Expense	\$515,518
Ending Expended Balance	\$515,518
Total Unexpended Balance	\$515,518

*Expenditures for Year End reflect a 7.5% reduction for ABTPA Grants and Professional Services.

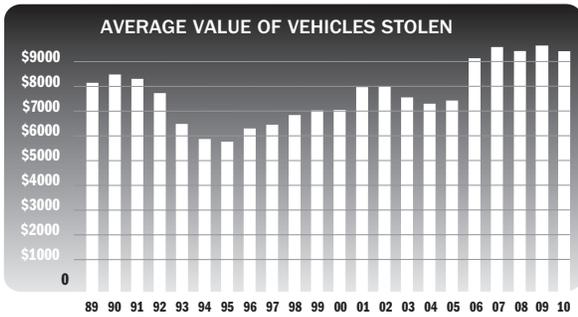
2010 Motor Vehicle Theft Comparisons



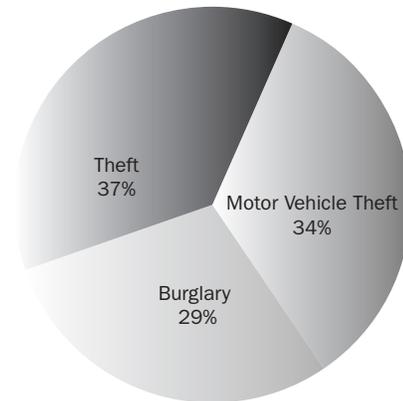
68,220 vehicles were stolen in Texas in 2010, accounting an economic loss totaling \$635,570,078. This is a decrease of 11% from 76,617 in 2009.



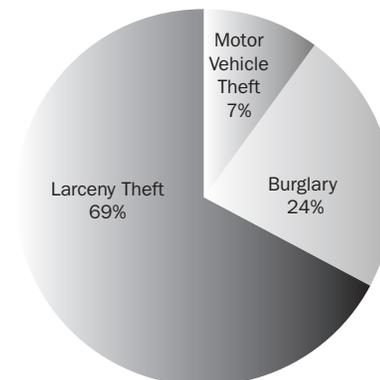
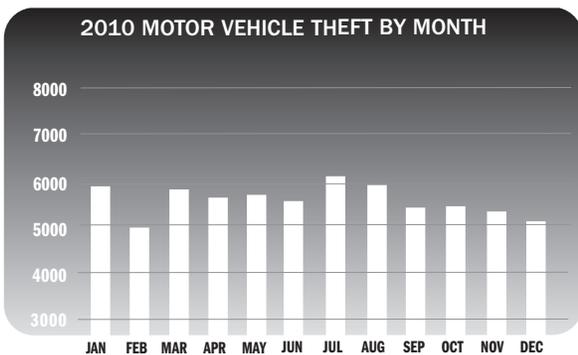
Motor Vehicle Theft by Type



The average dollar loss per motor vehicle theft was \$9,403, a decrease from \$9,980 in 2009.



Motor Vehicle Theft Property Crime by Value



Motor Vehicle Theft Property Crime by Volume

Top 20 Texas Counties-Auto Theft

1	Harris.....	19,467
2	Dallas.....	12,949
3	Bexar.....	6,330
4	Tarrant.....	4,917
5	Hidalgo.....	2,548
6	Travis.....	2,497
7	El Paso.....	1,798
8	Webb.....	946
9	Collin.....	868
10	Denton.....	777
11	Montgomery.....	719
12	Potter.....	657
13	Cameron.....	653
14	Galveston.....	617
15	Lubbock.....	590
16	Jefferson.....	582
17	Gregg.....	536
18	Fort Bend.....	509
19	Nueces.....	488
20	Smith.....	401

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	Chevy Tahoe
5	Honda Civic
6	Honda Accord
7	GMC Pickup
8	Toyota Camry
9	Ford Taurus
10	Chevy Impala

Top 20 Texas Counties-Burglary of Motor Vehicle

1	Harris.....	61,513
2	Dallas.....	34,135
3	Bexar.....	30,728
4	Tarrant.....	23,799
5	Travis.....	17,208
6	Hidalgo.....	8,165
7	Collin.....	4,940
8	Nueces.....	4,869
9	Cameron.....	4,275
10	Lubbock.....	3,736
11	El Paso.....	3,468
12	Potter.....	3,397
13	Denton.....	3,175
14	Montgomery.....	3,149
15	Fort Bend.....	3,099
16	Bell.....	3,913
17	Galveston.....	2,763
18	Jefferson.....	2,514
19	Webb.....	2,454
20	Williamson.....	2,416

These 5 counties accounted for 64% of auto thefts in Texas

These 15 counties accounted for 16% of auto thefts in Texas

2010 Burglary of a Motor Vehicle Comparisons

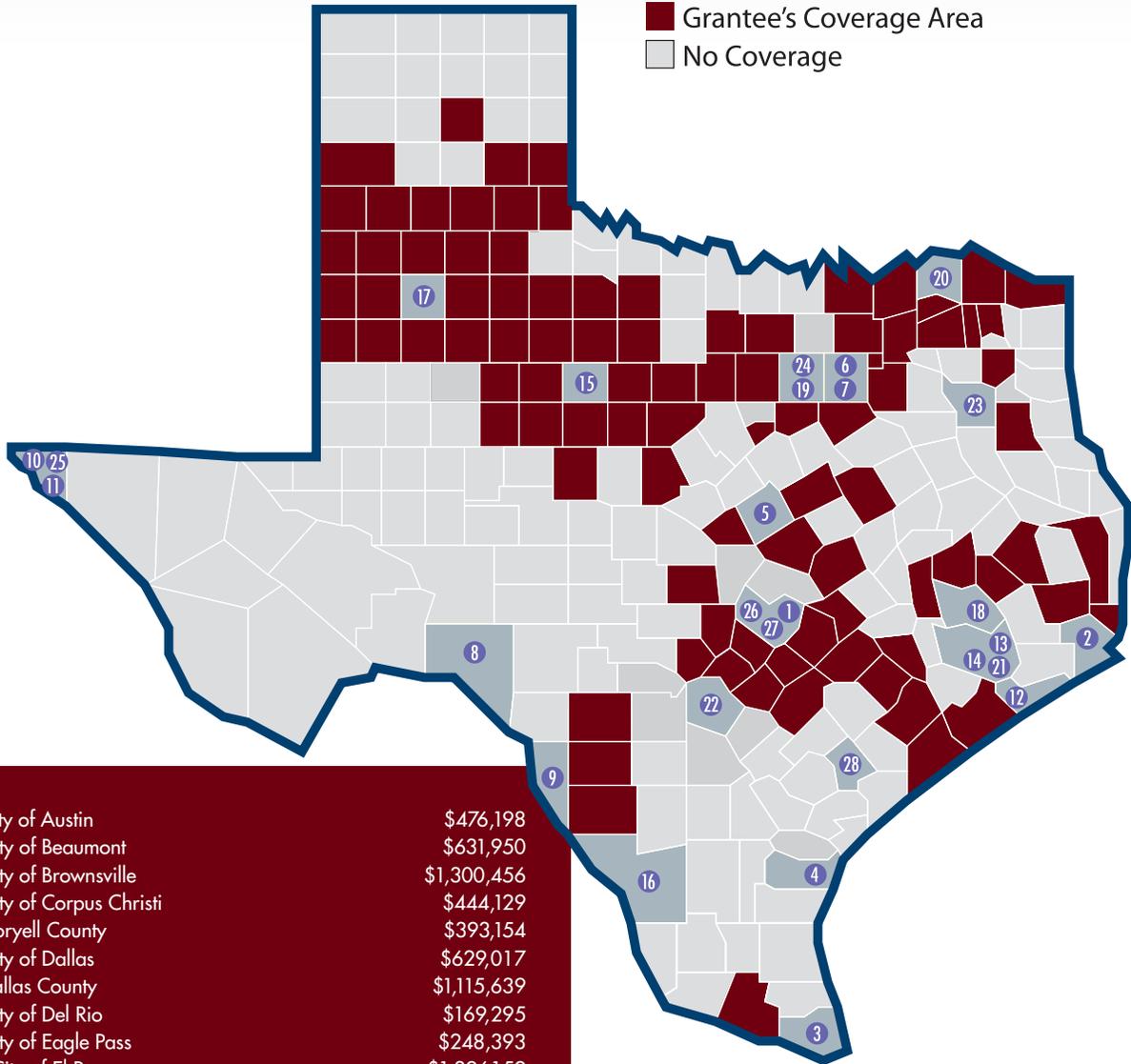
Burglary of Motor Vehicles (BMV) Offenses					
<i>Year</i>	<i>Theft from MV</i>	<i>MV Parts</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Registered Vehicles</i>
1999	154,303	54,437	208,740	17,724,030	20,044,141
2000	160,400	53,368	213,768	17,748,875	20,949,316
2001	179,602	62,363	241,965	18,190,307	21,334,855
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
2010	191,675	71,804	263,479	21,672,776	25,145,561

Cost of Burglary of Motor Vehicles			
<i>Year</i>	<i>Theft from MV</i>	<i>MV Parts</i>	<i>Total</i>
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
2010	\$161,185,270	\$58,089,231	\$219,274,501

From 2009 to 2010, burglary of motor vehicles decreased statewide by 8%. There were 263,479 thefts from motor vehicles including motor vehicle parts in Texas, accounting for an economic loss totaling \$219,274,501.

2010 Grantee Program Area Map

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



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1. City of Austin	\$476,198
2. City of Beaumont	\$631,950
3. City of Brownsville	\$1,300,456
4. City of Corpus Christi	\$444,129
5. Coryell County	\$393,154
6. City of Dallas	\$629,017
7. Dallas County	\$1,115,639
8. City of Del Rio	\$169,295
9. City of Eagle Pass	\$248,393
10. City of El Paso	\$1,396,159
11. El Paso Tax Assessor-Collector	\$142,243
12. Galveston County	\$559,234
13. Harris County	\$1,191,581
14. City of Houston	\$1,105,665
15. Jones County	\$56,475
16. City of Laredo	\$458,405
17. Lubbock County	\$457,948
18. Montgomery County	\$458,532
19. North Texas University	\$275,908
20. City of Paris	\$173,933
21. City of Pasadena	\$97,081
22. City of San Antonio	\$1,164,642
23. Smith County	\$423,358
24. Tarrant County	\$1,195,982
25. Texas Dept of Public Safety-BATIC	\$202,255
26. Texas Dept of Public Safety—Training	\$88,744
27. Travis County	\$671,431
28. City of Victoria	\$122,193

ABTPA Task Force Functions

ABTPA funded 28 task forces in FY 2010, which included 23 *Law Enforcement, Detection, and Apprehension* grants, one *Anti-Theft Devices/Vehicle Registration Programs* grant, three *Reducing Sale of Stolen Vehicle or Parts* grants, and one *Public Awareness and Education* grant.

LAW ENFORCEMENT, DETECTION, AND APPREHENSION

Grantees in this category conduct proactive patrols to search for and recover stolen vehicles, participate with other agencies to recover stolen vehicles and property, and enhance information gathering systems.

City of Austin

The City of Austin's Auto Theft Interdiction Project became an ABTPA grantee in 1995. The task force covers Travis County and the City of Austin and, in FY 2010, performed crushing operations and salvage inspections, commercial auto theft investigations, bait vehicle stings, community awareness and auto theft prevention strategies presentations, and cadet and in-service training.

City of Beaumont

The City of Beaumont Southeast Auto Theft Task Force is an original ABTPA task force, established in 1993. The multi-agency enforcement and crime prevention unit task force covers Jefferson, Orange, Hardin, and Jasper Counties, including all municipalities therein. Task force activities in FY 2010 included: inspections of salvage yards and repair shops, proactive patrols, special operations, crime prevention and awareness activities, and responding to identifiable problems.

City of Corpus Christi

The City of Corpus Christi received an Auto Theft Prevention Grant in 1994. Its task force covers Nueces County and the city of Corpus Christi. In FY 2010, the task force conducted salvage-yard inspections, held public-awareness programs, issued crime analysis bulletins, conducted License Plate Reader (LPR) highway operations and bait vehicle operations, attended intelligence sharing seminars, updated offender database, and performed 68-A inspections.

Coryell County

The Coryell County Heart of Texas Auto Theft Task Force (HOTATTF) became an ABTPA grantee in 2002. The task force covers McLennan, Coryell, Burnet, Lampasas and Limestone Counties. In FY 2010, HOTATTF conducted salvage-yard and vehicle inspections, assisted law enforcement agencies, performed 68-A inspections, provided public awareness classes and officer training, interdiction and surveillance operations, and held VIN etchings.

Dallas County

The Dallas County North Texas Auto Theft Task Force (NTATTF), an original ABTPA task force established in 1993, covers Dallas and Collin Counties. The NTATTF specializes in commercial vehicle thefts and, through its Insurance Fraud Unit, single-claim insurance fraud cases. In FY 2010, the task force trained law enforcement agencies, conducted vehicle bait operations, and investigated insurance fraud cases.

Galveston County

Galveston County's Auto Crimes Task Force, also an original ABTPA task force established in 1993, covers Galveston, Southern Harris, Brazoria, and Matagorda Counties. In FY 2010, the task force continued to deploy bait vehicles to combat truck thefts and the illegal transport of contraband and aliens, deployed a license plate reader, and implemented "Operation Street Crimes" to focus on improperly registered or stolen trailers and heavy equipment.

Harris County

Harris County's Auto Theft Division is an original ABTPA task force established in 1993. In FY 2010, the task force conducted salvage and storage facility inspections and training classes, provided public service announcements and public-awareness presentations, identified theft and insurance fraud investigations, conducted surveillance of "chop shops" and auto-theft rings, and utilized bait vehicles and license-plate readers.

Jones County

Jones County's West Central Texas Auto Theft Task force, an ABTPA grantee since 1995, covers Baylor, Brown, Callahan, Eastland, Fisher, Haskell, Jones, Kent, King, Knox, Mitchell, Nolan, Runnels, Scurry, Shackelford, Stephens, Stonewall, Taylor, and Throckmorton Counties. In FY 2010, the task force conducted salvage and vehicle inspections, provided public-awareness programs, provided training to local officers regarding auto theft investigations, and detected and apprehended persons operating "chop shops" and organized crime entities involved in VIN switching.

Lubbock County

Lubbock County's South Plains Auto Theft Task Force (SPATTF) became an ABTPA grantee in 1996 and covers Bailey, Briscoe, Borden, Carson, Castro, Childress, Cochran, Collinsworth, Crosby, Dawson,

Deaf Smith, Dickens, Donley, Floyd, Gaines, Garza, Hale, Hall, Hockley, Lamb, Lubbock, Lynn, Motley, Parmer, Scurry, Swisher, Terry, and Yoakum Counties. In FY 2010, the SPATTF conducted salvage yard inspections, Stolen Vehicle Detection and Apprehension classes and public awareness presentations. The task force also performed 68-A inspections, worked with federal, state, county and local agencies to reduce gateway crimes, and shared vital auto theft-related information with other law enforcement agencies.

Montgomery County

The Montgomery County Motor Vehicle Theft, Salvage, and Arson Reduction Program became an ABTPA grantee in 1995 and covers the city of Conroe and Montgomery, Walker, Grimes, Polk, and San Jacinto Counties. In FY 2010, the task force conducted salvage yard and accessory shop inspections, performed 68-A inspections, and provided training classes, public awareness programs, and VIN etchings.

City of Paris

The City of Paris Northeast Texas Automobile Theft Task Force, an ABTPA grantee since 1995, covers the city of Paris and Bowie, Delta, Fannin, Franklin, Grayson, Hopkins, Hunt, Lamar, Red River, and Titus Counties. In FY 2010, the task force conducted salvage yard inspections, inspected vehicle dealers and repair shops, investigated insurance fraud, and provided training and public-awareness programs.

City of Pasadena

The City of Pasadena Auto Crimes Prevention Program, an ABTPA grantee since 2006, covers the city of Pasadena and Harris County. In FY 2010, the task force conducted salvage-yard inspections and provided auto theft and crime-prevention training.

Smith County

The Smith County East Texas Auto Theft Task Force became an ABTPA grantee in 1994 and covers Smith, Rusk, and Upshur Counties. In FY 2010, the task force inspected salvage yards, vehicle re-builders, vehicle repairers, and scrap metal processors, as well as conducted training programs, H.E.A.T. registrations, VIN etchings, public-awareness presentations, and maintained working relationships with program area media outlets.

Tarrant County

The Tarrant County Regional Auto Crimes Task Force, an original ABTPA task force established in 1993, covers Jack, Johnson, Palo Pinto, Parker, Somerville, Tarrant, and Wise Counties. In FY 2010, the task force conducted inspections of salvage yards, inspected domestic and foreign vehicles and parts, deployed bait cars, and provided training and public-awareness classes.

Texas Department of Safety – Border Auto Theft Information Center (BATIC)

BATIC was established in 1994 to assist in the recovery of stolen vehicles from Mexico and the U.S. and 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 2,213,126 inquiries and recovered 35,849 stolen vehicles for a total of \$452,947,824.

Texas Department of Public Safety – Motor Vehicle Theft Service

The Texas Department of Public Safety's (TxDPS) Motor Vehicle Theft Service (MVTS) office, established in 1995, trains local, state, and federal law enforcement officers in auto theft investigations and vehicle identification techniques at basic, advanced, and specialized auto theft investigation schools throughout Texas. Schools are also conducted in Mexico in a continuing cooperative effort with Mexican authorities. The program focuses on providing in-depth instruction and hands-on training in investigating and combating organized vehicle theft and vehicle burglary rings. In FY 2010, MVTS trained 978 students through Advanced Motor Vehicle Theft Schools, Basic Stolen Vehicle Recognition Schools for Patrol Officers, and TxDPS Recruitment Training.

Travis County

Travis County Sheriff's Combined Auto Theft Task Force (SCATTF), also an original ABTPA task force established in 1993, covers Bastrop, Bell, Blanco, Caldwell, Colorado, Comal, Fayette, Gonzales, Guadalupe, Hays, Lee, Llano, Milam, Travis, and Wharton Counties. In FY 2010, SCATTF conducted inspections of unlicensed salvage yards, auto body repair shops, wrecker storage yards, garage mechanic shops and auto auctions, and conducted public-awareness training and training classes.

City of Victoria

The City of Victoria's Law Enforcement Detection and Apprehension Task Force, an ABTPA grantee since 1995, covers the city of Victoria and Victoria County. In FY 2010, the task force conducted salvage yard inspections, H.E.A.T. drives, and crime-prevention presentations and training.

LAW ENFORCEMENT, DETECTION, AND APPREHENSION – BORDER ENFORCEMENT

In addition to the general mission, these grantees are an instrumental part of Homeland Security to protect our border and prevent stolen vehicles from crossing into or from Mexico.

City of Brownsville

The City of Brownsville South Texas Auto Theft Enforcement Task Force, an original ABTPA grantee established in 1993, covers Cameron and Hidalgo Counties. FY 2010 activities included: international bridge and vehicle checks, salvage inspections, public-awareness presentations and training/education class, and investigating fake titles and registration of stolen vehicles.

City of Del Rio

The City of Del Rio Auto Theft Prevention and Recovery Unit became an ABTPA grant in 1995 and covers the city of Del Rio and Val Verde County. In FY 2010, the task force conducted southbound checkpoints at Port of Entries into Mexico, conducted inspections of salvage and wrecker yards, and conducted public-awareness programs.

City of Eagle Pass

The City of Eagle Pass Auto Theft Recovery and Highway Interdiction Unit became an ABTPA grantee in 1995 and covers the cities of Eagle Pass, Carrizo Springs, and Crystal City and the counties of Uvalde, Dimmit, Maverick, Uvalde, and Zavala. In FY 2010, the task force increased salvage-yard inspections, inspected vehicles from the Republic of Mexico, and conducted southbound operations, public awareness presentations, and H.E.A.T. and VIN etching drives, as well as provided officer training in Mexico.

City of El Paso

The City of El Paso Auto Theft Prevention Task Force is an original ABTPA task force, established in 1993, and covers El Paso and El Paso County. In FY 2010, the task force conducted bridge operations, salvage inspections, and import/export operations inspections, increased recoveries from Mexico, and provided education and public-awareness events such as VIN etchings and H.E.A.T. drives.

City of Laredo

The City of Laredo Auto Theft Task Force is an original ABTPA task force, established in 1993, and

covers the city of Laredo and Webb County. In FY 2010, the task force conducted salvage-yard and bridge inspections, provided crime prevention and public-awareness programs, H.E.A.T. registrations and VIN etchings, conducted surveillance operations at shopping centers, and inspected used auto dealerships.

ANTI-THEFT DEVICES/VEHICLE REGISTRATION PROGRAMS

El Paso County Tax Assessor

The El Paso County Tax Assessor Collector's Office became an ABTPA grantee in 2003 and primarily conducts document investigations to identify, apprehend, and prosecute those who sell fraudulent documents to register or renew their vehicle. The tax assessor-collector also collects statistical data for other agencies for reporting and/or educational purposes. In FY 2010, the department identified individuals and groups who operated or were a part of illegal activities that included procuring, selling and registering stolen vehicles, and presented fraudulent insurance cases to District Attorney's Office.

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REDUCING SALE OF STOLEN VEHICLE OR PARTS REGULARY & THEFT PREVENTION AUTHORITY

City of Dallas

The City of Dallas Commercial Auto Theft Interdiction Squad, an ABTPA grantee since 1995, covers the city of Dallas and surrounding counties. In FY 2010, the task force set up mobile crime-prevention signs in conjunction with marked police sky towers, inspected vehicle repair facilities and salvage yards, and conducted crime prevention meetings.

City of Houston

The City of Houston Auto Crimes Task Force is an original ABTPA task force, established in 1993 and covers the city of Houston and Harris County. In FY 2010, the task force inspected accessory/tire and wheel shops, auto-repair facilities, scrap-metal dealers and salvage yards, as well as conducted port checks with U.S. Customs agents and directed public-awareness activities.

City of San Antonio

The City of San Antonio Regional Auto Crimes Team (ReACT) is an original ABTPA task force, established in 1993. In FY 2010, ReACT conducted salvage-yard and impound inspections, provided

auto theft and crime-prevention classes and VIN etching services, and employed mobile and fixed surveillance to target known offenders.

PUBLIC AWARENESS AND EDUCATION

The function of this grantee is to educate task forces and citizens about auto theft and burglary prevention efforts in their locality and provide tips to citizens on how to avoid becoming auto theft and burglary victims.

University of North Texas – Reduce Auto Theft in Texas (R.A.T.T.)

Reduce Auto Theft in Texas (R.A.T.T.), established in 1995, is the statewide public-awareness grantee that coordinates and supports the public awareness efforts of ABTPA and its grantees. R.A.T.T. disseminates information materials to grantees, tracks public-awareness activities, and maintains the 800-CAR-WATCH hotline.

Public Awareness and Education

One of the most important duties of the ABTPA is to educate Texas drivers on how they can protect themselves from becoming victims of auto-crimes. Over the years, and throughout 2010, the ABTPA and its grantees have employed radio, TV, newspaper, outdoor billboards, parking lot signage, online messaging, and cinema announcements, as well as conducted media interviews, organized community events, and supervised VIN etchings and H.E.A.T. registration drives to increase awareness on how to prevent auto theft and burglary.

Three public-awareness campaigns have urged Texans to be more diligent in protecting their vehicles, the items in their vehicles, and their friends and families:

Watch Your Car®

The long-running “Watch Your Car” public-awareness campaign has included television and radio announcements, billboards, brochures, promotional giveaways, posters, parking lot signage,



mobile-vehicle displays, and more. In addition to the ABTPA “pushing out” information to Texans, a statewide auto theft-awareness hotline — 800-CAR-WATCH — enables callers to obtain theft prevention information packets, statistics, and details on the Texas H.E.A.T. program. As well,

“Watch Your Car” materials are made available to grantees, crime prevention officers, interested organizations, and TxDMV’s public-information office for distribution to citizens across the state.

You Hold the Key™

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 annually, an estimated 50 percent are the result of Texans leaving their keys in the ignition. The campaign reminds drivers that stolen vehicles serve 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

In 2009, the ABTPA launched “You Are Being Shadowed,” a public-awareness campaign with the message that wherever Texans go, car thieves lurk close-by, ready to burglarize or steal vehicles outright. Secondary campaign messages tailored information to specific regions along the border, and in urban and rural areas. A toolkit for grantees also provided bilingual regional radio public service announcements (PSAs), a 15-second animated PSA, video news releases, and newspaper, outdoor, poster, parking lot signage, and online messages.



In addition to public service campaigns, the ABTPA focuses efforts to reduce vehicle burglaries and thefts over summer months (when more individuals have “time on their hands”) and employs programs and social media in the effort.

Watch Your Car Month Initiative

In July 2010, ABTPA and its task forces kicked off “Watch Your Car” month, a statewide coordinated initiative to increase awareness of fines levied to motorists who leave their keys in an unattended vehicle. Partnering with the Texas Association of Convenience Stores, “Got Your Keys?” statics appeared in windows of convenience stores, shopping centers, and popular meeting spots across the state.



Social Media

On ABTPA's Facebook page, fans and visitors can access up-to-date information on ABTPA events, meetings, and conferences, find links to PSA videos, news clips, and task force news stories, and



view photos of ABTPA and task force personnel in action. The Facebook page also serves as a clearinghouse for auto burglary and theft-prevention tips, as well as creates a community for individuals and organizations interested in helping reduce vehicle related crimes.

ABTPA's Twitter account — TxAutoBurgTheft — enables ABTPA personnel to share timely news and information and even provide details on auto crimes cases as they happen. Twitter enables ABTPA staff to directly connect with individuals interested in ABTPA activities, as well as preventing vehicle related burglaries and theft.

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

Texas H.E.A.T. (Help End Auto Theft) is a voluntary statewide vehicle registration program in which vehicle owners sign an agreement with a participating law enforcement agency that enables that agency to stop the owner's vehicle between the hours of 1 a.m. and 5 a.m. anywhere in Texas in order to verify ownership. Owners can grant additional authority at the time of registration to have their vehicle stopped any time it is being driven from Texas into Mexico.

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



2010 ABTPA Annual Summit and Award Winners

In June 2010, law enforcement and insurance industry representatives from across the state gathered in Galveston at the 2010 ABTPA Annual Summit to discuss strategies for combating auto crimes in Texas. More than 200 participants received training in innovative auto theft and insurance investigation techniques, as well as instruction in using a national electronic database that enables law enforcement personnel to access vehicle title information from any state.

Also during the 2010 Annual Summit Opening Ceremonies, ABTPA Chairman Chief Carlos Garcia presented the Steve Davenport Award for Law Enforcement, the Star Award for Civilian Personnel, and the ABTPA Task Force Award to the unit, organization, or agency demonstrating outstanding service and dedication in fulfilling the mission and vision of ABTPA.

We are pleased to acknowledge that Investigator Greg Grasshoff of the Montgomery County Auto Theft Task Force received the 2010 Steven Davenport Award, Michelle Snyder of the Heart of Texas Auto Theft Task Force received the 2010 Star Award, and the City of Laredo Auto Theft Task Force received the 2010 ABTPA Task Force Award. We extend our congratulations to all 2010 winners.

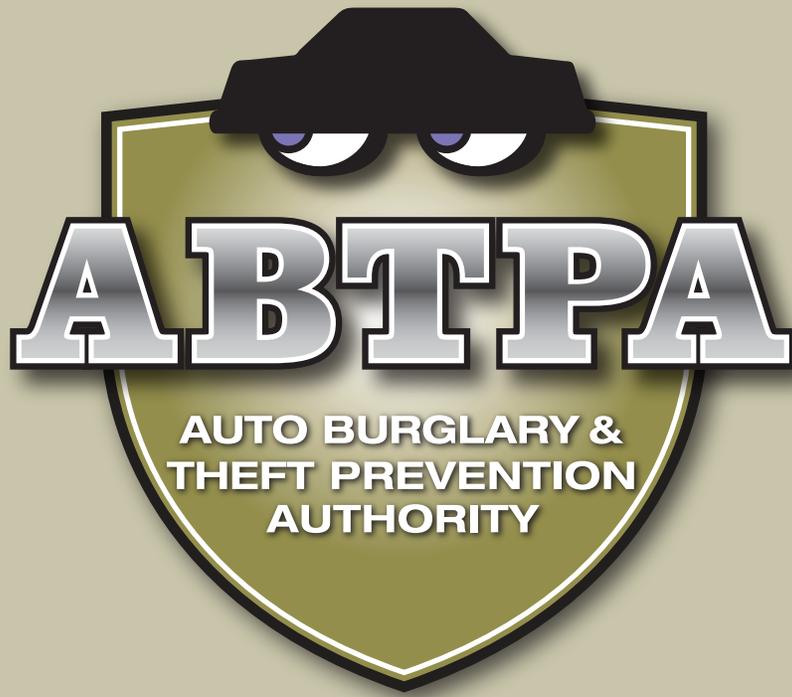
We invite you to learn more.

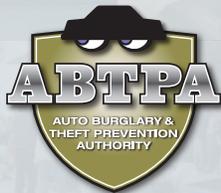
Thank you for your interest in the Automobile Burglary & Theft Prevention Authority. As we look to the future, combating vehicle theft and those individuals and organizations who steal and transport vehicles remain our chief priority. Texans need and deserve streets, roads, and highways that are safe from vehicle related crimes, and you can be sure ABTPA personnel and grantees across the state are doing everything in our power to make that happen.

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To learn more about the ABTPA, we urge you to visit us online at www.txwatchyourcar.com, like us on Facebook, and/or follow us on Twitter at TxAutoBurgTheft. You can also call us toll-free at 1-800-CAR-WATCH or write: ABTPA • 4000 Jackson Avenue • Austin, Texas 78731.

Again, thank you for your interest.





TEXAS AUTO BURGLARY & THEFT PREVENTION AUTHORITY

4000 Jackson Ave., Austin, Texas 78731 • www.txwatchyourcar.com • 800.CAR.WATCH



Texas Department
of Motor Vehicles