



Successful Practices & Strategies

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Sacramento Police Department

Sacramento, California

www.sacpd.org

Community policing element

Community partnerships

Problem/issue

Motor vehicle theft

Problem description

Catalytic converters, along with copper and other metals, have become a hot commodity for thieves. Theft of catalytic converters has become popular because of their value, relative ease to steal (unbolt or cut out), and their lack of identifying markings. The lack of identification makes it difficult to identify victims and successfully apprehend and prosecute criminals.

Community policing strategies implemented

The Sacramento Police Department (SPD) partners with local businesses to host free etching events where vehicle license plate numbers are etched onto catalytic converters and has trained three agencies on how to host their own events. The presence of license plate numbers on catalytic converters can provide police with the information needed to identify stolen property, contact victims, and apprehend and prosecute criminals.

Over the past two years, the SPD has hosted five events and has painted and etched approximately 300 vehicles. SPD officers reach out to every attendee at the events to share additional protection tips.

Change and/or impact as a result of these community policing efforts

Media exposure has raised awareness regarding the thefts in the Sacramento region. To date, the SPD is not aware of any reported thefts of the marked converters and is confident this program is a deterrent.

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