



BURBANK POLICE DEPARTMENT

200 North Third Street, Burbank, CA 91502

COMMUNITY BULLETIN

HELP PREVENT CATALYTIC CONVERTER THEFTS

SCOTT LACHASSE
CHIEF OF POLICE

DATE: March 17, 2017

Catalytic converters convert engine pollutants into less-harmful emissions before leaving a vehicle's exhaust system. They are critical in keeping our air clean and reducing smog, but also a target for thieves who steal catalytic converters for the precious metals they contain.

A thief can get under a car and steal a catalytic converter in minutes, leaving a vehicle owner with a steep bill for replacement. Catalytic converter thefts can cost victims thousands of dollars in repair work, while thieves cash them in at scrap yards for \$50 to \$150 on average.

The Burbank Police Department has recently seen an increase in catalytic converter thefts and would like to provide the community with the following tips to help deter and prevent them:

- Always park your vehicle under light or in well-lit areas, and park in populated areas, if possible.
- When home, park your vehicle in your driveway or behind a gate if you can. If you live in an apartment complex, utilize a secure parking garage if available.
- Consider installing motion sensor lights covering the area where you park your vehicle.
- Be aware that it is against the Burbank Municipal Code to work on a motor vehicle which is parked on the street in Burbank. If you see someone working under a vehicle in the street, [call the Burbank Police](#) to report it.
- Be mindful and observant of anyone under a vehicle, especially late at night or during periods of darkness.
- Keep an eye out for people loitering near vehicles that might be carrying tools or other items without a reasonable explanation.
- Consider etching your car's vehicle identification number (VIN) on your catalytic converter for identification should it be stolen.
- Video surveillance cameras are a great tool and resource that can help the police identify suspects involved in criminal activity. They also act as a good crime deterrent.

The Burbank Police Department reminds you to always report suspicious activity on our non-emergency, 24-hour number, at [818-238-3000](tel:818-238-3000).

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS STATEMENT SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:
SERGEANT DEREK GREEN | 818-238-3240 | DGREEN@BURBANKCA.GOV

24-HOUR: 818-238-3000

 @BURBANKPD

 CRIME STOPPERS LACRIMESTOPPERS.ORG

PRESS INFORMATION OFFICE: 818-238-3240

www.BURBANKPD.org

CRIME STOPPERS: 800-222-TIPS (8477)

DETECTIVE BUREAU: 818-238-3210

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