



# BURBANK POLICE DEPARTMENT

200 North Third Street, Burbank, CA 91502

## COMMUNITY BULLETIN

### KEY CLONER VEHICLE THEFTS

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March 11, 2025

The Burbank Police Department has seen an increase in “Key Cloner” vehicle thefts. Most newer vehicles sold today are enabled with keyless or remote ignition. The owner of the vehicle simply needs to have their key fob close to unlock and start their vehicle.

Thieves are taking advantage of this newer technology by using an aftermarket device, about the size of a cellphone or tablet, to remotely scan for a key fob signal and quickly create a cloned key. Similar devices can plug in underneath the dashboard and download the vehicle’s information which thieves can then program into a blank key fob.

The Burbank Police Department would like the community to be aware of this recent trend and is providing the following tips to help prevent and deter vehicle thefts:

- When home, park your vehicle behind a gate or inside of a garage, if possible.
- Consider installing motion-sensing lights and video surveillance cameras where you park.
- When not in use, consider storing your key fob in a [Faraday](#) pouch or signal blocking box.
- Utilize a traditional steering wheel lock or similar locking device.
- Purchase an aftermarket low-cost GPS tracking device, like Apple AirTag, Tile, or similar to conceal in your vehicle. Thieves often disable the factory installed tracking system.
- Contact the dealership to see if your vehicle may be eligible for a security software update.

If you see a crime in progress or anything that appears to be suspicious, report it immediately to the Burbank Police Department. Our 24-hour non-emergency number is (818) 238-3000. For emergencies only, dial 9-1-1.

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QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS STATEMENT SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:  
SERGEANT STEPHEN TURNER | 818-238-3240 | [STURNER@BURBANKCA.GOV](mailto:STURNER@BURBANKCA.GOV)

24-HOUR: 818-238-3000

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE: 818-238-3240

DETECTIVE BUREAU: 818-238-3210

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