



BURBANK POLICE DEPARTMENT

200 North Third Street, Burbank, CA 91502

COMMUNITY BULLETIN

MICHAEL ALBANESE
CHIEF OF POLICE

THEFT OF CATALYTIC CONVERTERS

December 21, 2022

A catalytic converter turns 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 – platinum, palladium, and rhodium.

A thief can get under a car and steal a catalytic converter in minutes, leaving a vehicle owner with a steep bill for a replacement. Catalytic converter thefts can cost victims thousands of dollars in repair work, while thieves cash them in at scrap yards for an easy payout.

During the month of December, the Burbank Police Department has seen an increase in thefts of catalytic converters. In many of the cases, thieves are targeting hybrid vehicles, specifically the Toyota Prius. The Burbank Police Department is committed to combating this rise in theft and has arrested 11 people during the month of December for suspicion of stealing catalytic converters. During those investigations, eight catalytic converters suspected of being stolen were recovered.

The Burbank Police Department would like to provide the community with the following tips to help deter and prevent thefts of catalytic converters:

- Park in a garage or well-lit area
- Consider installing motion sensor lights and surveillance cameras
- Etch the vehicle identification number (VIN) or license plate number on your catalytic converter for identification should it be stolen
- Be mindful and observant of anyone under a vehicle, especially late at night
- Keep an eye out for people loitering near vehicles that might be carrying tools or other items without a reasonable explanation

The Burbank Police Department would also like to remind residents of the [“Etch and Catch” Catalytic Converter Anti-Theft Program](#). To deter would-be thieves and track stolen catalytic converters, the Burbank Police Department has teamed up with several local auto repair shops to have Burbank residents' license plate numbers etched onto their catalytic converters.

As a community, we need to work together to prevent crime. 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.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS STATEMENT SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:
SERGEANT BRENT FEKETY | 818-238-3240 | BFEKETY@BURBANKCA.GOV

24-HOUR: 818-238-3000

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE: 818-238-3240

DETECTIVE BUREAU: 818-238-3210

@BURBANKPD

www.BURBANKPD.org

FACEBOOK.COM/BURBANKPD



@burbankpolice

CRIME STOPPERS: 800-222-TIPS (8477) | LACRIMESTOPPERS.ORG

NIXLE.COM NIXLE



**POLICE
DEPARTMENT**