

STATE OF ARIZONA
ARIZONA AUTOMOBILE
THEFT AUTHORITY
WWW.AZWATCHYOURCAR.COM



NEWS RELEASE
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TURN UP THE HEAT ON AUTO THEFT IN MARCH

PHOENIX – The AZ. Auto Theft Authority (AATA), in partnership with Arizona law enforcement agencies, kicks off the **6th Annual Auto Theft Prevention & Awareness Week beginning with events on Thursday, March 3rd in Phoenix.** Several events will be planned this week and throughout March in an effort to promote auto theft and burglary prevention in Arizona.

Last year, Arizona achieved another year of declining auto theft rates. Arizona reported 25,986 stolen cars in 2009, a 30% decrease from 2008 and the seventh (7th) consecutive year for a statewide decrease. Overall, Arizona ranked fourth (4th) in the nation for vehicle thefts per capita and seventh (7th) for total stolen vehicles.

In addition, the Phoenix, Tucson and Yuma MSA's (metropolitan statistical areas) made a significant drop down the Top U.S. Cities list in 2009; Phoenix dropped to 40th place, Tucson to 24th, and Yuma to 62nd place. This marks a significant improvement for these cities, particularly Phoenix, once labeled the car theft capital of the U.S. In 2001, Phoenix and Tucson both held the #1 and #2 spots respectively on the list and remained on the top ten until 2008.

Despite these encouraging numbers, Arizona ranks the #4 state in the U.S. for vehicle theft rate. **Arizonans can do their part to protect their vehicles by participating in the 6th Annual Statewide Auto Theft Prevention & Awareness Week activities.** Check out the AATA Events Calendar for more information about events during the week and throughout March – www.azwatchyourcar.com or call 1-888-668-4433.

Arizona law enforcement agencies will be hosting free events to increase awareness about auto theft & burglary prevention. Departments throughout the state will be providing "FREE" to their citizen's such services as; Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) etching, enrollment in the state's Watch Your Car decal program. For a complete listing of March event locations and hours, visit the AATA's website or call 602 364-2886 (AUTO).

Phoenix Police Dept. Central City Precinct's Auto Theft Prev. & VIN Etching Event
Thursday, March 3, 2011 – 9am – 1pm
Target – 4515 E. Thomas Road, Phoenix

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Bullhead City Police Dept. Auto Theft Prev. & VIN Etching Event
Thursday, March 3, 2011 – 3:00 – 6:00pm
Bullhead City PD Parking Lot – 1255 Marina Blvd.

Avondale Police Dept. Auto Theft Prev. & VIN Etching Event
Friday, March 4, 2011 – 3:00 – 6:30pm
Costco – 99th Avenue & McDowell Road – NE corner parking lot

Youngtown Police Dept. Auto Theft Prev. & VIN Etching Event
Friday, March 4, 2011 – 8:00am – 12:00pm and 1:00 – 3:00pm
****BY APPT ONLY – 623 974-3665**
Youngtown PD – 12038 Clubhouse Square

Buckeye Police Dept. Auto Theft Prev. & VIN Etching Event
Saturday, March 5, 2011 – 10:00am – 12:00pm
100 N. Apache Road, Suite D

El Mirage Police Dept. Auto Theft Prev. & VIN Etching Event
Saturday, March 5, 2011 – 9:00 am – 12:00pm
****BY APPT ONLY – 623 433-9536**
El Mirage PD – 14405 N. Palm Street, El Mirage

MCSO – Sun Lakes Sheriff's Posse Auto Theft Prev. & VIN Etching
Saturday, March 5, 2011 – 9:00am – 1:00pm
9531 E. Riggs Road, Sun Lakes

Mesa Police Department's Auto Theft Prevention & VIN Etching Event
Saturday, March 5, 2011 – 1:00 – 4:00pm
Old Mesa City Court – 245 W. 2nd Street, Mesa

Prescott Valley PD, Prescott PD & Yavapai Co. Sheriff's Office Auto Theft Prevention & VIN Etching Event
Saturday, March 5, 2011 – 2:00 – 5:00pm
Tim's Event Center – 3201 N. Main Street, Prescott Valley

Yuma Police Department's Auto Theft Prevention & VIN Etching Event
Saturday, March 5, 2011 – 10am – 2pm
Target – Yuma Palms Shopping Center, Yuma

Gilbert Police Department Auto Theft Prevention & VIN Etching Event
Tuesday, March 8, 2011 – 3:00 – 5:00pm
Gilbert Police Dept - 75 E. Civic Center Drive, Gilbert

Glendale Police Department's Auto Theft Prevention & VIN Etching Event
Wednesday, March 9, 2011 - 5:00 – 8:00pm
Greenbrier School – 6150 W. Greenbrier Dr. Glendale

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AZ. Auto Theft Authority, Phoenix PD & SunWest Credit Union's Auto Theft Prevention & VIN Etching Event

Friday, March 25, 2011 – 9:00am – 1:00pm

SunWest Credit Union – 11839 North 28th Drive, Phoenix

Scottsdale Police Department's Auto Theft Prevention, VIN Etching & Public Safety Event

Saturday, March 26, 2011 – 10:00am – 1:00pm

Coronado High School, 7501 E. Virginia Avenue, Scottsdale

Document Shredding, Car Seat Checks, Prescription Drug Collection

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