

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



NEWS RELEASE
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PUT THE BRAKES ON AUTO THEFT THIS WEEKEND – FREE AUTO THEFT PREVENTION & VIN ETCHING EVENTS KICK OFF ON FRIDAY, MARCH 2nd

PHOENIX – The AZ. Auto Theft Authority (AATA), in partnership with Arizona law enforcement agencies, kicks off the **7th Annual Auto Theft Prevention & Awareness Week beginning with events on Friday, March 2nd in the Phoenix area.** Several events are planned this upcoming weekend 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 21,250 stolen cars in 2010, a 17% decrease from 2009 and the eighth (8th) consecutive year for a statewide decrease. Overall, Arizona ranked sixth (6th) in the nation for vehicle thefts per capita and eighth (8th) 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 2010; Phoenix dropped to 56th place, Tucson to 22nd and Yuma to 88th 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 #8 state in the U.S. for vehicle theft rate. **Arizonans can do their part to protect their vehicles by participating in the 7th 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 event locations and hours, visit the AATA's website or call 602 364-2886 (AUTO). Events scheduled to date include:

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

Friday, March 2, 2012 – 9:00am – 1:00pm

SunWest Credit Union – Goodyear Branch - 650 N. Estrella Parkway, Suite A6

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Apache Junction Police Department's Auto Theft Prevention & VIN Etching Event

Saturday, March 3, 2012 – 11:00am – 2:00pm

Apache Junction Chamber of Commerce - 567 W. Apache Trail

Avondale Police Department's Auto Theft Prevention & VIN Etching Event

Saturday, March 3, 2012 – 10:00am – 2:00pm

Costco – 10000 W. McDowell Road, Avondale, AZ

Chandler Police Department's Auto Theft Prevention & VIN Etching Event

Saturday, March 3, 2012 – 10:00am - 1:00pm

Chandler Police Main Station – 250 E. Chicago Street

Glendale Police Department's Auto Theft Prevention & VIN Etching Event

Saturday, March 3, 2012 – 8:30am – 11:30am

Glendale Adult Center - 5970 W. Brown Street (one street south of Peoria). North parking lot.

Marana Police Department and State Farm Insurance Co's Auto Theft Prevention & VIN Etching Event

Saturday, March 3, 2012 – 10am – 1pm

9100 N. Silverbell Road, Tucson, AZ. 85743

Maricopa Police Department's Auto Theft Prevention & VIN Etching Event

Saturday, March 3, 2012 – 10am – 4pm

Bashas - 21044 N John Wayne Parkway, Maricopa AZ 85139

Mesa Police Department's Auto Theft Prevention & VIN Etching Event

Saturday, March 3, 2012 – 10am – 12pm

Target Store – 1135 S. Gilbert Road, Mesa, AZ

Yuma Police Department's Auto Theft Prevention & VIN Etching Event

Saturday, March 3, 2012 – 10am – 2pm

Target Store (Parking lot) - 1450 S. Yuma Palms Parkway, Yuma, AZ

Sierra Vista Police Department's Auto Theft Prevention & VIN Etching Event

Saturday, March 17, 2012 – 9am – 1pm

Target Store (Parking lot) - 4151 E. Highway 90, Sierra Vista, AZ

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