

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



**NEWS RELEASE**  
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**ARIZONA CITIES SLIDE DOWN THE 2008 “HOT SPOTS” TOP TEN LIST  
FOR AUTO THEFTS**

**PHOENIX** – The Arizona Automobile Theft Authority (AATA) is pleased to report that Phoenix and Tucson both worked their way off the 2008 Top Ten Auto Theft Hot Spots List. In a report issued today by the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB), 2008 marked the nation’s fifth consecutive year of declining vehicle thefts in the United States. Except for Yakima, WA and Arizona, the top ten cities are all along the border with Mexico.

For 2008, the 20 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA) with the highest vehicle theft rates are:

<u>2008 Ranking</u>		<u>2007 Ranking</u>
1.	Modesto, CA	1
2.	Laredo, TX	6
3.	Yakima, WA	9
4.	San Diego/Carlsbad/San Marcos, CA	3
5.	Bakersfield, CA	15
6.	Stockton, CA	4
7.	Las Vegas/Paradise, NV	2
8.	Albuquerque, NM	7
9.	San Francisco/Oakland/Fremont, CA	5
10.	Fresno, CA	11
11.	Visalia-Porterville, CA	12
12.	Detroit-Warren-Livonia, MI	18
13.	Tucson, AZ	10
14.	Sacramento--Arden-Arcade--Roseville, CA	13
15.	Myrtle Beach-Conway-North Myrtle Beach, SC	23
16.	El Centro, CA	17
17.	El Paso, TX	30
18.	Vallejo-Fairfield, CA	19
19.	Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, AZ	8
20.	Eugene-Springfield, OR	40

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Officials attribute the success to statewide programs and strategies in place led by the AATA in partnership with the insurance industry and Arizona law enforcement agencies to enforce, investigate, prosecute and prevent auto thefts across our state.

The City of Phoenix and Tucson Police Departments have made good progress in reducing auto thefts and have worked side-by-side with the AATA to develop effective programs and prevention methods aimed at driving Arizona's vehicle theft rate down.

“The increased use of police bait cars and license plate readers, along with aggressive prosecution and public service programs and prevention initiatives have all been successful but a great deal of work remains,” stated Enrique Cantu, AATA Executive Director. “There were over 25,000 vehicles stolen in Phoenix alone last year which still remains a concerning level.”

The AATA estimates the drop in numbers to the stolen vehicle affidavit legislation that became effective in September 2007, sharing stolen vehicle intelligence between law enforcement agencies, conducting joint auto theft detection and apprehension operations with neighboring law enforcement agencies and the Arizona Vehicle Theft Task Force, and collaborating with the County Attorney offices to enhance prosecution.

The AATA also wishes to commend the public for their diligence and increased awareness and participation in preventing their vehicles from theft and/or burglary. A layered approach to protection remains the most effective way to prevent your vehicle from being stolen. The 4 Layers of Protection include:

#### Layer #1 -- Common Sense

- Lock your car & always take the keys with you
- Do not leave valuables in plain view in your vehicle; lock items in the trunk or out of sight.
- Never leave your vehicle running and unattended
- Park in well-lit areas
- If you have a garage, use it

#### Layer #2 -- Visible & Audible Warning Devices

The second layer of protection is any device that can be SEEN or HEARD and alerts thieves that your vehicle is protected. Some popular examples include:

- Audible alarms, steering wheel locks, brake locks
- The AATA's FREE Watch Your Car Program
- Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) etching on vehicle windows – visit the AATA's website ([www.azwatchyourcar.com](http://www.azwatchyourcar.com) – Events page) for a list of free events in the community.

### Layer #3 -- Immobilizing Devices

This third layer of protection is a device which prevents thieves from bypassing your ignition and hot-wiring the vehicle. Some popular devices include:

- Kill switches
- Starter, ignition and fuel disablers
- Smart keys
- High security locks & keys
- Fuse cut-offs

### Layer #4 -- Tracking Devices

The final layer of protection is a tracking device which emits a signal to a police or monitoring station when the vehicle is reported stolen. Tracking devices are very effective in helping authorities recover stolen vehicles.

For additional information about vehicle theft prevention and the Watch Your Car Program, call 1-888-668-4433 or visit the website at [www.azwatchyourcar.com](http://www.azwatchyourcar.com).

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