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THE ARIZONA AUTOMOBILE THEFT AUTHORITY (AATA) ISSUES PRECAUTIONS ABOUT VEHICLE THEFT DURING UPCOMING HOLIDAY SEASON

PHOENIX (November 21, 2007) The Arizona Automobile Theft Authority (AATA) and law enforcement officials are alerting the public to be extra cautious about leaving valuables in their vehicle as the 2007 holiday season approaches. The AATA reports that the month of December is historically one of the highest months for vehicle thefts and burglaries from vehicles.

Arizona residents can take extra precautions to secure their vehicles through a “layered approach” to protection. The more layers on your vehicle, the tougher it is to steal.

Layer #1 -- Common Sense

- Lock your car & always take the keys with you
- Park in well-lit areas
- Never leave your vehicle running and unattended
- Do not leave valuables in plain view - lock merchandise in the trunk. If you do not have a trunk, keep packages covered and out of sight.
- Do not hide a spare set of keys in the car - the pros know where to look
- 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 – Events page) for a list of free events in the community.

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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 the Arizona Automobile Theft Authority and the Watch Your Car Program, call 1-888-668-4433 or visit the website at www.azwatchyourcar.com.

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