

CITY OF CHINO HILLS

PRESS RELEASE



PR14 – 048

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Date: June 26, 2014

CHINO HILLS POLICE DEPARTMENT OFFERS FREE THIRD-ROW SEAT LOCK & ENGRAVING

Third-row seats from full-size SUVs including Chevy, Cadillac, and GMC models, have become a target for thieves. The third-row seats from these vehicles are valuable to a thief because they can easily break into these vehicles, and in a minute or less, they can remove the seat and get away. The valuable seats are costly to replace and are not labeled or marked with any identification numbers which make them easy to sell to others.

The Chino Hills Police Department encourages residents to have their third-row seats engraved with the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN), or locked in place with a seat lock, FREE of charge.

“Taking these steps can reduce the chance that your seat will be stolen and increase the odds that your property can be identified and recovered if it is stolen,” said Captain Robert Guillen.

Residents may schedule an appointment by calling (909) 364-2000. Appointments will be scheduled Tuesday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Chino Hills Police Department, 14077 Peyton Drive in Chino Hills.

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Thieves look for full-sized SUVs that may be parked in places where the vehicle is parked for longer periods of time like shopping malls, movie complexes, and the gym. Once they find their target vehicle, they may follow the driver to see if the vehicle will be left parked in one place for a long period of time. Next they may drive around in circles to make sure no Police, or people, are around who might see them commit the theft. The criminals usually operate in crews of two or three vehicles to run counter surveillance. Once they have their target, they pop the door, pull out the seats, load them into their vehicles, and off they go. With Cadillacs they have also been known to pop out the whole dashboard and take the navigation system too.

According to Captain Guillen, all of this can be done in less than a minute.

There are a couple of steps residents can take to combat this crime: 1) Be aware of any suspicious activity and report it to police; 2) Remove the third-row seat if it is not in use; 3) Have the seat locked in place or engraved with the VIN number of the vehicle.