



## POLICE DEPARTMENT

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Don't Be a Voluntary Victim: Lock, Take, and Hide**

New Braunfels, Texas — With the summer season here, New Braunfels inevitably sees a dramatic increase in car burglaries. Vehicle burglaries are a crime of opportunity, and would-be thieves often target vehicles of those on vacation or vehicles parked in large parking lots. In fact, the average burglar simply checks for unlocked car door handles, spends less than a minute inside the vehicle, and always checks the glove box, door panels, and center console first. In the last few weeks, New Braunfels Police officers are seeing increased car burglaries in and around shopping centers, hotels, and apartment complexes. But these crimes are preventable, and there are some easy steps you can take to keep yourself from becoming a voluntary victim of vehicle burglary and theft.

#### **Lock, Take, and Hide**

Lock, Take, and Hide is an easy 3-step plan that drastically reduces your chances of becoming a victim:

- **Lock** your car doors.
- **Take** your valuables with you. (This includes cell phones, wallets/purses, GPS units, computers, weapons, and jewelry).
- Or, at least, **Hide** those valuables so they aren't in plain sight.

Here are some other helpful tips:

- Never leave your keys in the car or leave the vehicle running while unattended. Also, don't hide spare keys in or under the vehicle.
- If you have an alarm system on your vehicle, use it.
- Securing items in your trunk is a good way to deter theft, but don't place your property in the trunk at the time you park. Thieves will be watching for that, and can later enter your vehicle and open the trunk to steal your property.
- Park in well-lit areas and be alert to your surroundings.
- Document the serial numbers of your property or etch some type of identifying information on the property to help locate and identify it later in case of theft.

If you see suspicious activity in parking areas or in neighborhoods, be sure to call New Braunfels Police by dialing 9-1-1 or call NBPD's non-emergency number: (830) 221-4100.

To establish a Neighborhood Crime Watch for your neighborhood, call (830) 221-4100 or log on to [www.nbtexas.org/police](http://www.nbtexas.org/police) and look under the Crime Prevention tab.

And if you find a Reminder Card on or in your vehicle, it's because an officer noticed that you were making your vehicle an easy target for burglary. Please partner with us to make your vehicle a harder target: **Lock, Take, and Hide.**

{Images attached}:

Lock, Take, and Hide logo

Lock, Take, and Hide Reminder Card

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