



**CATPA**

**Colorado Auto Theft  
Prevention Authority**

Department of Public Safety

## Master Messaging Document

### Auto theft is a growing problem in Colorado

- 37,110 vehicles were stolen in Colorado in 2021 (ATICC)
  - That's an average of 713 stolen vehicles per week, or 101 stolen vehicles per day
  - 2022 is set to surpass last years record high
  - Thus far as of end of the end of June 21,830 vehicles were reported stolen

### Leaving your car running while unattended is illegal in Colorado

- 31% have admitted to leaving their car running unattended (2019 Talmey-Drake Poll)
- 40-50% of vehicle theft is due to driver apathy, which includes leaving vehicle doors unlocked and leaving keys in the ignition or on the seats (NHTSA, 2016)
- [A Colorado law](#) effective in August 2016 exempts vehicles with a remote-start from being ticketed if found running unattended. However, drivers must keep the keyless start fob far enough away from the car that the vehicle can't be moved.

### Data indicates higher risk circumstances for auto theft (ATICC)

- Fridays and Mondays showed the highest level of auto theft, while Sunday showed the lowest (ATICC)
- Top Ten Stolen Vehicles in 2021 (ATICC):
  1. Chevrolet Silverado
  2. Ford F-250
  3. Honda Civic
  4. Honda Accord
  5. Hyundai Sonata
  6. Kia Optima
  7. GMC Sierra
  8. Kia Sportage
  9. Ford F-350
  10. Hyundai Tucson
- Top Five Colorado Cities for Auto Theft in 2021 (ATICC):
  1. Denver
  2. Aurora
  3. Colorado Springs
  4. Lakewood
  5. Pueblo



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Auto theft is considered a property crime; however, stolen vehicles are often used to commit other crimes

- Auto theft fuels crime sprees that involve organized crime, drugs, robberies and contribute to the overall rise in Colorado's crime rate
- 74% of adult car thieves in Colorado commit additional crimes such as armed robbery, home invasion, drug related offenses, etc.

#### Auto Theft Prevention Tips

- Never leave your car running unattended
- Lock your doors every single time
- Always park in well-lit areas
- Don't keep a spare set of keys in the car
- Remove all valuables from the vehicle or place them in the trunk hidden from view
- Buy comprehensive insurance that covers stolen vehicles and stolen vehicle components like Catalytic Converters
- Report suspicious activities to a non-emergency police line
- Do a self risk assessment using [lockdownyourcar.org](https://lockdownyourcar.org) and assess how vulnerable your car may be to theft
- Invest in a vehicle security or alarm system, or other theft prevention devices such as steering wheel locks, parking boots, and kill switches

#### Auto Theft Victim Tips

- **Step 1:** Contact law enforcement or call 911 in an emergency
- **Step 2:** Call your insurance provider
- **Step 3:** Make a list of items stolen
- Step 4: Cancel Credit Cards and notify the credit bureaus if your identity may be compromised
- Step 5: Change your locks if your house or job keys were stolen

#### About CATPA

CATPA is a state authority that was established by Colorado statute in 2003 to help reduce the state's serious auto theft problem, and is funded through the required annual collection from insurance companies of \$1.00 for every insured vehicle. The grant helps ensure that auto theft prevention efforts are targeted, and has resulted in an increase in stolen vehicle recoveries and criminal prosecutions of major organized criminal groups.

State legislators determined that the grant funding would be a direct investment by consumers because all Colorado drivers are victims of auto theft as it impacts everyone through increased insurance premiums and rising crime rates in our community, so we all benefit from contributing to these efforts. Visit the [CATPA website](https://catpa.state.co.us) to learn more about the grant and the projects it funds.

#### Contact CATPA

Robert Force (CATPA Executive Director)  
303.239.4560  
[robert.force@state.co.us](mailto:robert.force@state.co.us)