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CRIME ALERT: EDEN PRAIRIE POLICE URGE RESIDENTS TO PREVENT THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLES

Eden Prairie, Minn. — Due to a recent spike in thefts from motor vehicles, the Eden Prairie Police Department is urging residents to take notice and take action.

Within the last week, Eden Prairie Police received reports of 28 theft and/or tamper with motor vehicle incidents – two involving residential garage burglaries and one involving a stolen vehicle. These crimes are occurring in residential neighborhoods, during all hours of the day and on all days of the week.

“We are asking residents to help us put a stop to the recent trend in theft from motor vehicle incidents,” said Sergeant Dennis Paulson. “These are crimes of opportunity, which means there are actions that can be taken to prevent them.”

Of all the theft from motor vehicle incidents reported to Eden Prairie Police in 2011, 45 percent involved a vehicle that was unlocked. The most common items stolen in theft from motor vehicle incidents in 2011 include GPS systems, iPods, laptop computers, wallets, purses and designer sunglasses.

Eden Prairie Police offer the following tips for residents:

- Always lock your vehicle, even when parked in a driveway or garage.
- Never leave keys in your vehicle, even if it’s locked.
- Whenever possible, remove all valuables from your vehicle.
- If it is not possible to remove valuables from your vehicle, hide them out of plain sight.
- Always report thefts from motor vehicles to the Police Department.
- Be aware of activity in your neighborhood and take note of anything seeming out of the ordinary.
- Immediately report suspicious activity by calling 911.

To speak with an officer regarding crime prevention, call the Eden Prairie Police Department non-emergency line at 952-949-6200.

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