MISSION STATEMENT

“To deter and reduce vehicle theft and insurance fraud through a statewide cooperative effort of generating funds to support law enforcement, prosecution and public awareness through a partnership between industry and state government.”

This mission is supported by Colorado Revised Statute 43-5-12.
# Table of Contents

- Executive Summary .................................................. 2
- Success and Facts ..................................................... 3
- Grant Awards .......................................................... 5
- Grantee and Task Force Map ........................................ 6
- Auto Theft Prevention Tips .......................................... 8
- Media Coverage ....................................................... 9
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Colorado Auto Theft Investigators Association, a non-profit professional organization of Law Enforcement and Insurance Investigators proposed legislation that was introduced by State Legislator, Betty Boyd. On April 22, 2003 legislation passed into law and established the Colorado Automobile Theft Prevention Authority (CATPA). Initial funding for the CATPA program was donated by State Farm Insurance, Progressive Insurance, Liberty Mutual, Country Insurance and National Equipment Register. In 2004, The CATPA Board was established, comprised of representatives from the Colorado Department of Public Safety, Colorado Department of Revenue, Insurance Industry in Colorado, Law Enforcement, a representative of the statewide association of District Attorneys and a representative of the public or consumer group. In 2008, the Colorado legislature amended the CATPA statute to require insurance companies to fund CATPA with a one dollar per insured vehicle annual assessment. In 2009, the first fees were collected on January 1st. The CATPA Board awarded over $4 million in grant funds on June 1, 2009 and December 15, 2009.
PROVEN SUCCESS & FACTS

Several of the auto theft task forces already existed thanks to previous CATPA funding from 2003 through 2008. These task forces have proven success at reducing auto theft. These accomplishments since the program was initiated in 2003 are recorded through statistical collection based on number of automobile thefts and recovery value.

- In 2003, Colorado ranked 9th as the most likely state to have a vehicle stolen.
- In 2003, 22,669 vehicles were stolen in Colorado.
- In 2004, there was a 13% increase in motor vehicle theft. Motor vehicle thefts accounted for 38% of the major offenses reported. In 2004, the CATPA Board concluded the first grant cycle by awarding over $500,000 in grants.
- In 2005, automobile theft offenses climbed to an all-time high. The number of thefts in 2005 was 559.5 compared to the national rate of 416.7. The estimated value of the vehicles reported stolen was a total of $156,269,495. With just six months of grant awards for theft operations, 153 stolen vehicles were recovered worth nearly $1.8 million. The Task Forces had arrested 86 adults and six juveniles.
- In 2006, the grants awarded began to take effect with Task Forces in operation, education programs being provided to the public, and the development of partnerships between agencies. The presence of a focused grant initiative lead to the first reduction of automobile theft in Colorado. A 20% decrease was recorded from 2005 to 2006 while the nationwide auto thefts only decreased 3.4%.
- In 2007, grant funding provided directly to the cause has provided a steady decline of automobile theft and other associated crimes. Voluntary contributions from Insurance Companies in the amount of $797,000 were awarded in grants. The grants resulted in 368 felony arrests with $11,313,933 value in recovered vehicles.
- In 2008, Colorado was ranked 23rd among states for automobile thefts.
- In 2008, The Colorado legislature amended the CATPA statute to include insurance companies to fund CATPA with a one dollar per insured vehicle annual assessment.
- In 2009, the first fees were collected on January 1st. The CATPA Board awarded over $2 million in grant funds on June 1, 2009. The significant accomplishment was the solicitation and award of grant funds to establish full-time Task Forces in Colorado, update equipment to current technology necessary to meet the needs of law enforcement, provide training statewide to insurance investigators, law enforcement and prosecutors and develop a public awareness on automobile theft.
- Spring 2009 CATPA grant funds have bolstered ongoing efforts and generated new multi-jurisdictional collaboration statewide.
By Donna Leinwand, USA TODAY

Reported vehicle theft has fallen to a 20-year low even as the number of vehicles on the road has doubled, as manufacturers install sophisticated anti-theft technology in cars and police target organized car-theft rings.

Grants are awarded two times a year. A completed application form needs to be submitted to CATPA by the applicant. Deadline for application is a set date occurring in late fall and early spring. Grant awards will be based on an evaluation of all proposals by the CATPA Board Members. The evaluation includes a scoring process on the merits of the grant application and the grantee presentations. Scores are based on the ability of the applicant to define the criteria of the “project description” in writing and by presentation. These criteria are defined in Colorado State Statute 45-2-112 and identified in the CATPA application under “project description”.

www.csp.state.co.us/CATPAProg.html

GRANT AWARDS

Grants provided Funding to:

• Establish the 1st full-time Task Force
• Seven part-time Task Forces geographically distributed from Montezuma to Fort Collins
• Purchase of proven high technology equipment including Automobile License Plate Readers, GPS and Bait Cars
• Staffing for Education
• Scholarships for Training

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The CATPA 2009 Grant Award program funded $4 million dollars. There are 43 participating partners and eight Auto Theft Task Forces throughout Colorado.

Grant Statistics

- 2007-2008 22.1% decline
- #1 Stolen Car is the 1995 Honda Accord
- Counties in order of most stolen vehicles –Denver/Aurora, Pueblo, Colorado Springs, Grant Junction, Greeley, Fort Collins and Boulder.
- 43 Partners participating in CATPA

Back Reference Stats:

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43 PARTICIPATING PARTNERS IN THE PROGRAM

Attorney General’s Auto Theft Prosecution Initiative
Colorado Department of Law-Office of the Attorney General
29 Agencies throughout Colorado

CATI - IAATI Conference 2009 and Project EINSTEIN Training
Colorado Auto Theft Investigators (CATI)
29 Agencies throughout Colorado

Multi-Jurisdiction Project to Reduce Automotive Theft
- City of Westminster Police Department
- City of Arvada Police Department
- Broomfield Police Department

South Area Auto Theft Task Force
- Littleton Police Department
- Sheridan Police Department
- Englewood Police Department

NRATT - Regional Auto Theft Team of Northern Colorado
- Colorado State Patrol
- Colorado Department of Revenue/Auto Industry
- Fort Collins Police Department
- Greeley Police Department
- Larimer County Sheriff’s Department
- Longmont Police Department
- Loveland Police Department
- Weld County Sheriff’s Department

WCATT - Western Colorado Auto Theft Task Force
- Grand Junction Police Department
- Colorado State Patrol
- Mesa County Sheriff’s Office
- Fruita Police Department
- Mesa County District Attorney’s Office

Operation Southwestern Auto Theft Prevention
- Montezuma County Sheriff’s Office
- Cortez Police Department
- Colorado State Patrol

SCRATT - Southern Colorado Motor Vehicle Theft Task Force
- Colorado Springs Police Department
- Pueblo Police Department
- Pueblo County Sheriff’s Office
- Monument Police Department
- Fountain Police Department
- El Paso County Sheriff’s Office
- National Insurance Crime Bureau

Commerce City/Thornton/Adams County Auto Theft Prevention Program
- Commerce City Police Department
- Thornton Police Department
- Adams County Sheriff’s Department

DMATT - Denver Metropolitan Auto Theft Team
- Colorado State Patrol
- Lone Tree Police Department
- Douglas County Sheriff’s Office
- Arapahoe County Sheriff’s Office
- Broomfield Police Department
- Thornton Police Department

JRATT - Metropolitan Auto Theft Task Force
- Lakewood Police Department
- City of Arvada Police Department
- Wheat Ridge Police Department
- Jefferson County Sheriff’s Office
- City and County of Denver First Judicial District
1. Use Common Sense
   Park in well lit areas.
   Be aware of your surroundings.
   Report anything suspicious and avoid suspicious looking people.
   Lock your doors.
   Close your windows completely.
   Take your keys out of the car.
   Never leave your car running unattended - not even for a minute.
   Remove all items from the car or hide them from view.

2. Visible or Audible Anti-Theft Devices
   Audible alarm system
   Steering wheel locks/Brake pedal lock
   Steering column collars
   Theft deterrent decals
   Tire/locks/Tire deflators
   Wheel locks/Brake locks
   Window/VIN etching
   Micro Dot Marking

3. Vehicle Immobilizer
   Smart keys have computer chips that must be present to start the car.
   Fuse cut-offs
   Kill-switches
   Starter, ignition and fuel disablers - Wireless, ignition authentication

4. Tracking System
   Install a tracking system that alerts police or a monitoring service when the vehicle is reported stolen.

5. Avoid Carjacking
   Drive with windows rolled up and doors locked.
   Be aware of your surroundings.
   When stopped at a signal, leave enough space between you and the next car to be able to drive away if approached.
   Do not enter your car if someone is loitering. Seek help.
   Be alert at drive-up ATM's.
   If all else fails, don't resist. Your life is more important.

Report fraud and vehicle theft to your local law enforcement, as well as the National Insurance Crime Bureau at 1-800-TEL-NICB (1-800-835-6422). Your call to NICB can be anonymous and you may be eligible for a reward.
COLORADO’S TOP TEN STOLEN VEHICLES IN 2008 (NICB)

1. 1995 Honda Accord
2. 1999 Honda Civic
3. 1999 Jeep Cherokee/Grand Cherokee
4. 1990 Toyota Camry
5. 1995 Acura Integra
6. 1997 Ford F150 Pickup
7. 1995 Saturn Si
8. 1997 Dodge Ram Pickup
9. 2002 Ford Explorer
10. 1995 Dodge Neon

MEDIA COVERAGE

Colorado Auto Thieves Are Put on Notice
By Carole Walker, Rocky Mountain Insurance Information Association and Bear Key, Colorado State Patrol

34 Colorado Law Enforcement Agencies receive grants to fund joint efforts to combat auto theft.

Police Raid Finds Stolen Cars at Wheat Ridge Home
By Kirk Mitchell, The Denver Post 8/22/09

Revving and clanging were heard nightly.

Man Wanted by Jeffco Task Force is Arrested

New Cameras Shoot Plates, Looking for Stolen Cars
Last year more than 1,100 cars were stolen in the Pike Peaks Regions, one out of every three of them was never recovered.

Posted: 7:08 PM Jun 29, 2009
Reporter: Jason Aubry/KKTV 11 News, Colorado Springs, CO