What is the Colorado Auto Theft Prevention Authority (CATPA)?

CATPA is a state authority, under the Department of Public Safety, established by Colorado Statute in 2003 to help reduce auto theft. In 2008 the legislature passed Senate Bill 60 to provide CATPA with permanent funding of $1 per insured vehicle, each year until the sunset review in 2018. As a result, CATPA is enabled with approximately $4 million per year to combat the serious and pervasive crime problems involving motor vehicle theft in Colorado. These funds are used for prevention, investigation, enforcement, police training, prosecution, and rehabilitation programs. Less than 8% of collected revenues are used for administrative support and the three member staff. The statute gives priority to multi-agency applicants that target auto theft in all regions of the state.

What has CATPA done?

CATPA’s Mission is: “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.” These efforts have resulted in an increase in recovering stolen vehicles and criminal prosecutions of hard-core and major organized criminal groups. Since CATPA efforts have been launched, the number of stolen vehicles in Colorado has decreased from 22,699 in 2003 to 11,304 in 2013.

In the past eight years, 130,000 vehicles have been reported stolen in Colorado, with an economic impact of $577 million dollars. Through the efforts and assistance of the CATPA initiatives, statewide auto theft has taken a dramatic reduction. This reduction has significant economic impact to the citizens of Colorado. For example, in 2005 the economic impact was $156 million dollars where it was $88 million dollars in 2013.

Who oversees CATPA?

The Program is administered by the Colorado State Patrol and the legislation established authority for the CATPA Board of Directors. The Board is comprised of 11 members that include (back row clockwise):

- Colorado Department of Revenue Executive Director Designee Ron Kammerzell, Senior Director of Enforcement Division,
- Law Enforcement Representative Sheriff David Weaver, Douglas County,
- Law Enforcement Representative Chief Kevin Paletta, Lakewood Police Department,
- Insurance Representative Tonia Rumer, Colorado Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company,
- Public Representative Jerry Cole, Sr. Director Law Enforcement LoJack Corporation,
- Insurance Representative Linda Tacinas, American Family,
- Insurance Representative Carole Walker, Rocky Mountain Insurance Information Association,
- Statewide District Attorneys Representative Eva E. Wilson, Senior Chief Deputy District Attorney, 1st Judicial District,
- Insurance Representative Judi Burk, State Farm,
- Colorado Department of Public Safety Executive Director Designee Colonel Scott Hernandez, Colorado State Patrol (not pictured), and
- Insurance Representative Dan Bowers, President, CIA-Leavitt Insurance, (not pictured).
In 2013, there was an average of 31 vehicles stolen every day in Colorado compared to 69 stolen every day in 2005.

Where do the grant dollars go?

The CATPA grant funds engaged 57 partner organizations and agencies across Colorado in the realms of prevention, education, enforcement, investigation, prosecution and training. The following is a summary of each program that was funded in FY 13 by CATPA.

1. Attorney General’s Auto Theft Prosecution.......................... $ 282,234
   This is a criminal prosecution initiative led by the Colorado Department of Law. This initiative has adjudicated offenders pursuant to the Colorado Organized Crime Control Act.

2. Auto Theft Intelligence Coordination Center ....................... $ 892,568
   A Colorado State Patrol led statewide intelligence support initiative for auto theft.

   B.A.T.T.I.E. (Beat Auto Theft through Law Enforcement) is a Colorado State Patrol led statewide multi-agency enforcement initiative. Partners include: Colorado State Patrol, Thornton Police Department, Broomfield Police Department, Glendale Police Department, Castle Rock Police Department, Alamosa Police Department, Alamosa County Sheriff’s Office, Cortez Police Department, Monte Vista Police Department, Costilla County Sheriff’s Office, Montezuma County Sheriff’s Office, Durango Police Department, Mancos Marshall’s Office, La Plata County Sheriff’s Office, Estes Park Police Department, Colorado State University Police Department, Ft. Collins Police Department, Greeley Police Department, Johnstown Police Department, Larimer County Sheriff’s Office, Longmont Police Department, Loveland Police Department, and Weld County Sheriff’s Office.

4. Coloradans Against Auto Theft (C.A.A.T.)......................... $ 679,066

5. Colorado Auto Theft Investigators (C.A.T.I.)..................... $ 265,418
   C.A.T.I. was awarded a statewide training initiative to support law enforcement education pertaining to auto theft.

6. Commerce City, Thornton, Adams County ....................... $ 20,100
   This is a multi-agency enforcement enhancement project to support automated license plate reader for detection of stolen vehicles.

7. Southern Colorado Auto Theft Task Force ....................... $ 108,543
   This is a multi-agency enforcement initiative in the southern portion of Colorado. Partners include: Colorado Springs Police Department, Colorado State Patrol, El Paso County Sheriff’s Office, Fountain Police Department, Manitou Springs Police Department, Monument Police Department, National Insurance Crime Bureau, Pueblo Police Department, Pueblo County Sheriff’s Department, and Woodland Park Police Department.

8. East Metro Auto Theft Team (EMATT).............................$1,053,070
   This is a full-time multi-agency enforcement task force initiative. Partners include: Aurora Police Department, Commerce City Police Department, Arapahoe County Sheriff’s Office, Douglas County Sheriff’s Office, Colorado State Patrol, Englewood Police Department, Sheridan Police Department.

9. Metropolitan Auto Theft Task Force (MATT) ............... $1,233,870
   This is a full-time multi-agency enforcement task force initiative. Partners include: Arvada Police Department, Denver Police Department, Lakewood Police Department, Westminster Police Department, Wheat Ridge Police Department, Jefferson County Sheriff’s Office, Jefferson County District Attorney’s Office, Denver County District Attorney’s Office. Indirect partners National Insurance Bureau, Farmers and Allstate Insurance Companies, Douglas County Sheriff’s Office, and Homeland Security – Immigration and Customs (ICE).

10. Western Colorado Auto Theft Task Force ..................... $ 91,101
    This is a multi-agency enforcement initiative. Partners include: Grand Junction Police Department, Colorado State Patrol, Mesa County Sheriff’s Office, Fruita Police Department, and Mesa County District Attorney’s Office.

What about vehicles stolen in 2013?

Of all reported stolen vehicles in Colorado:

1. On average, 31 vehicles were stolen every day in Colorado.
2. On average, 35 puffer vehicles were stolen every week (vehicle left running and unattended).
3. On average, 8 out of 10 stolen vehicles in Colorado were recovered. Of those recovered, 95% were found within one (1) week from the date of theft.
4. Vehicles not possessing a license plate, registration or identification number had the lowest chance of recovery (40% recovery rate).
5. CATPA funds were distributed to multi-agency task forces covering 86% of the Colorado population and 95% where auto thefts occurred.
6. Citizens’ carelessly leaving vehicles running and unattended (so-called “puffers”) have led to death, injuries and damage to fellow citizens from traffic collisions and other violent criminal conduct due to the reckless, irresponsible and repeat offending nature of those who steal cars for whatever reason.

Where do I get more information?

Please visit the Colorado Auto Theft Prevention Authority website at: Colorado Auto Theft Prevention Authority or contact the CATPA Office at 303-239-4560.

Colorado Auto Theft Investigators Association
http://www.coloradoautotheft.org/

Coloradans Against Auto Theft
http://lockdownyourcar.org/

National Insurance Crime Bureau
https://www.nicb.org/