THE COLORADO AUTOMOBILE THEFT PREVENTION AUTHORITY

The Colorado Automobile Theft Prevention Authority (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, including a three member staff, administered by the Colorado Department of Public Safety. The statute gives priority to multi-agency applicants that target auto theft in all regions of the state.

*The assessment applies to certain automobile and truck policies but does not include motorcycles or trailers that are significant theft targets.

CATPA ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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 37.7% from 20,176 in 2003 to 12,569 in 2014.

In the past nine years, 12,5441 vehicles have been reported stolen in Colorado, with an property value impact of $766 million dollars. Through the efforts and assistance of the CATPA initiatives, statewide auto theft has taken a dramatic reduction. This reduction has had a significant impact2 to the citizens of Colorado. For example, in 2005 the property value impact was $156 million dollars compared to $74 million dollars in 2014.

Motor Vehicle Theft Value2

2 Note: FBI Crime the US value of a stolen vehicle. This loss only attributes the value of vehicles stolen and not the additional losses of personal property, wages and time, insurance deductibles as well as peace of mind and safety. Auto theft in Colorado is linked to a wide spectrum of criminal behavior: illegal-drug trafficking, criminal street-gangs, robberies, identity theft, use in other crimes, professional chop shops/exporters, and repeat offenders of many types.

THE CATPA BOARD

The legislation established authority for the CATPA Board of Directors. The Board is comprised of 11 members that include:

1. Ron Kammerzell, Colorado Department of Revenue Executive Director Designee, Senior Director of Enforcement Division,
2. Sheriff David Weaver, Law Enforcement Representative, Douglas County,
3. Chief Kevin Paletta, Law Enforcement Representative, Lakewood Police Department,
4. Tonia Rumer, Insurance Representative, Colorado Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company,
5. Jerry Cole, Public Representative, Sr. Director Law Enforcement LoJack Corporation
6. Bob Pace, Insurance Representative, American Family Insurance,
7. Carole Walker, Insurance Representative, Rocky Mountain Insurance Information Association,
8. Jess Redman, Statewide Association of District Attorneys Representative, Deputy District Attorney, 17th Judicial District,
9. Judi Burk, Insurance Representative, State Farm,
10. Lt. Colonel Brenda Leffler, Colorado Department of Public Safety Executive Director Designee, Colorado State Patrol, and

THE CATPA OFFICE

The CATPA Office may be contacted for any assistance regarding the CATPA programs or information related to auto theft in Colorado. Please visit the CATPA website at: https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/csp/catpa-office

Robert D. Force, CATPA Director ......................... 303-239-4560
Gina Salazar, CATPA Grant Administrator.................. 303-239-4572
Charla Phagan, CATPA Office Manager .................. 303-239-4463
In 2013, there was an average of 34 vehicles stolen every day in Colorado compared to 69 stolen every day in 2005.

**CATPA FUNDED PROGRAMS**

In 2014, the CATPA Board awarded funding to nine (9) grant projects with multiagency initiatives. These grant projects engaged 44 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 FY15 by CATPA.

1. **Attorney General’s Auto Theft Prosecution**
   - **Funding:** $276,666
   - Description: 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. **ATICC**
   - **Funding:** $514,000
   - Description: The Auto Theft Intelligence Coordination Center (ATICC) is a Colorado State Patrol initiative that provides timely and reliable information and analysis of statewide auto theft reports completed in the Colorado Crime Information Center. The ATICC provides services to federal, tribal, national and state law enforcement agencies.

3. **BATTLE**
   - **Funding:** $495,091
   - Description: Beat Auto Theft through Law Enforcement (BATTLE) 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 County Sheriff’s Office, Costilla County Sheriff’s Office, Montezuma County Sheriff’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. **CAAT**
   - **Funding:** $430,015

5. **CATI**
   - **Funding:** $265,418
   - Description: Colorado Auto Theft Investigators (CATI) was awarded a statewide training initiative to support law enforcement education pertaining to auto theft.

6. **SCRAAT**
   - **Funding:** $97,400
   - Description: Southern Colorado Regional Auto Theft Team (SCRAAT) is a multi-agency enforcement initiative in the southern portion of Colorado. Partners include: Colorado State Patrol, Colorado Springs Police Department, 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.

7. **EMATT**
   - **Funding:** $1,197,000
   - Description: East Metro Auto Theft Team (EMATT) 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, and Sheridan Police Department.

8. **MATT**
   - **Funding:** $1,270,000
   - Description: Metropolitan Auto Theft Task Force (MATT) 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 include the National Insurance Crime Bureau, Farmers and Allstate Insurance Companies, Douglas County Sheriff’s Office, and Homeland Security – Immigration and Customs (ICE).

9. **WCATT**
   - **Funding:** $139,000
   - Description: Western Colorado Auto Theft Task Force is a multi-agency enforcement initiative in the western portion of the state. Partners include: Grand Junction Police Department, Colorado State Patrol, Mesa County Sheriff’s Office, Fruita Police Department, Garfield County Sheriff’s Office, Rifle Police Department, and Mesa County District Attorney’s Office.

**2014 COLORADO AUTO THEFT FACTS**

- On average, 955 vehicles were stolen every month.
- Financially, $5.7 million is stolen every month.²
- CATPA funds were distributed to multi-agency task forces covering 86% of the Colorado population and 95% where auto thefts occurred.
- On average, 8 out of 10 vehicles stolen were recovered. Of those recovered, 85% were found within one month from the date of theft.
- Vehicles not possessing a license plate, registration or identification number had the lowest chance of recovery (35% recovery rate).
- Citizens’ carelessly leaving vehicles running and unattended (so-called “puffers”) is the highest risk of having a vehicle stolen.
- Auto thefts 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.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Please visit the CATPA website at: [Colorado Auto Theft Prevention Authority](http://www.catpa.org) or contact the CATPA Office at 303-239-4560.

---

²Source: Colorado Stolen Vehicle Database Repository managed by the Auto Theft Intelligence Coordination Center; 2013-2014 reported stolen vehicles entered into the Colorado Crime Information Center.