



Contacts:
Linda Bowman
Police Information Coordinator
Grand Junction Police Department
(970) 244-3601

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PRESS RELEASE

12 Thefts from Autos in One Night

Don't be a victim of a "Crime of Opportunity"

(Grand Junction, CO) – In the wake of a rash of thefts from automobiles, the Grand Junction Police Department is reminding area residents to protect themselves from “crimes of opportunity.” Several of the thefts were from unlocked vehicles. In most cases, the thieves stole the victims’ personal identification and financial information from unattended purses and wallets.

On October 24, 2007, twelve theft reports were filed with the Grand Junction Police Department from victims whose vehicles had been entered unlawfully by unknown persons sometime between the late evening hours of October 23rd and the early morning of October 24th. **In ten of these incidents, the vehicles were unlocked. In eight cases, the victims had their purse, wallet or checkbook stolen. Two incidents included theft of Social Security cards.** Most of the incidents happened in the Northeast area of Grand Junction. Unfortunately, there is little or no suspect information in these cases. If you have information that might help solve these cases, please call the non-emergency dispatch phone number at 242-6707 and ask to speak to an officer.

Meanwhile, here’s what you can do to minimize your chances of becoming a victim of this type of crime:

- Always lock your car.
- Do not crack your windows, even if the car is locked.
- Never leave your wallet, purse or other valuables in vehicles – even for a short time.
- Never carry your Social Security Card with you.
- Invest in a theft prevention device, especially if you must park your car outside for long periods of time.

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