

## Facts about Vehicle Burglaries

- Vehicle burglary is one of the most common crimes, usually occurring at night. Burglaries increase during peak holiday shopping areas for vehicles parked at malls or shopping centers.
- Vehicle burglaries are crimes of “opportunity”, take away the opportunity for a burglar to get into the vehicle or leave nothing to steal and you have a better chance of not being a victim.
- Vehicle burglaries can lead to Identity Theft; personal information such as your vehicle registration or other papers contain enough information for a thief to steal your identity.
- Most vehicle burglaries happen to vehicles that are unsecured.
- Fingerprints and other evidence are harder to obtain from vehicle burglaries due to the nature of the surfaces such as cloth fabrics or textured material used on the dash.

The Mesa Police Department has a full-time crime prevention officer available in each District to give you additional crime prevention information and literature on how “not to become a victim” or how to increase crime prevention awareness in your community.

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**Mesa Police  
Department**  
Non-Emergency  
480-644-2211

## *Vehicle Burglary Report Card*

**A+**

Crime Prevention  
130 N. Robson  
Mesa, AZ 85201  
[www.mesaaz.gov/police](http://www.mesaaz.gov/police)

## Could Your Vehicle Pass the Test?

### Vehicle Burglaries can be prevented — How does your vehicle score?

Do you always remove the keys?  
YES NO

Do you always lock the doors and close  
the windows? YES NO

Do you remove all personal items such as  
cell phones purses, laptop computers,  
cash, and weapons from plain view?  
YES NO

Do you have and use an audible alarm system?  
YES NO

Do you always remove any portable devices, such  
as GPS systems, DVD players, removable face  
plates from the dash radio, etc. ? YES NO

Do you always remove your garage door opener  
from your vehicle when parking in the driveway or  
street? YES NO

Do you keep any belongings that need to be left in  
the vehicle in the trunk and out of plain view?  
YES NO

If you answered **YES** to all of these  
questions — **YOUR VEHICLE PASSED  
THE TEST WITH AN A+ ! GREAT JOB!**

If you answered even one question with a  
**NO** — **YOUR VEHICLE IS AN EASY  
TARGET FOR VEHICLE BURGLARS!**

**Take a lesson from the experts** — Make  
your vehicle a harder target by securing it  
and either removing all personal items or  
placing them completely out of plain view.

### Be Aware of Burglary Methods and Locations

#### Entry Methods:

- Break Glass
- Left unlocked
- Pried/Jimmied
- Windows rolled down or half-rolled  
down
- Window vents
- Sliding windows (mainly trucks)
- Sunroofs
- Convertibles

#### Most Common Points of Entry:

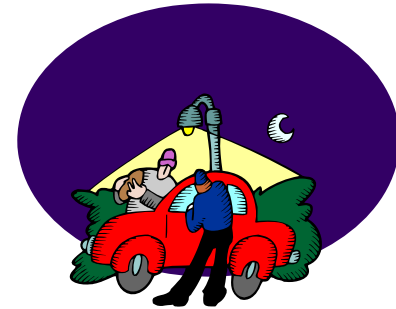
- Side and rear window
- Side door

#### High Risk Areas:

- Apartments
- Single family residences
- Auto parts/dealers/repair shops
- Shopping Centers
- Restaurants
- Movie Theaters
- Parks
- Bars and Nightclubs

#### Suspicious Activities:

- Pulling door handles
- Looking in windows
- Wearing odd clothing for the time of the year  
(e.g., long coats in the summer)
- Lookouts or watching for cars or walkers
- Acting Nervous—moving quickly or looking  
around
- Checking for alarms by bumping or hitting the  
window or bumpers for sensitivity



**To report a crime in progress - 9-1-1**

**Report suspicious activities - 480-644-2211**

**To learn how you can start a Neighborhood Watch  
in your neighborhood contact your Crime  
Prevention Officer -**

Jerry Quarles, Dobson Division - 480-644-2539  
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Lindy Marino, Red Mt. Division - 480-644-3921  
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