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## PUBLIC INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Working Together To Serve

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### IS YOUR VEHICLE AT RISK? L.B.P.D. Offers Advice on Catalytic Converter Theft Prevention



There has been an increase in the theft of catalytic converters from parked vehicles, which are essential for proper function of a vehicle's emission controls. The theft of a catalytic converter may render a vehicle inoperable, and once removed, severe engine damage can result if the vehicle is driven. The cost for replacement parts vary by manufacture, size, content, and design, but a victim can expect a repair bill to range from \$500 to \$2,000, plus the price of labor and towing.

This crime is fueled by the demand for the various composition materials used to manufacture the converters. These materials are made from various metals, which are quite expensive, and the demand is on the increase.

All vehicles are at risk, but SUV models are targets because they offer sufficient ground clearance for a suspect to crawl underneath to access the part. Further, this vehicle type has a bolt on style of converter, as opposed to those where the exhaust system has been constructed with welds. Prime targets are Toyota brand SUVs and pick-up trucks.

**The Long Beach Police Department would like to inform you of a few easy and inexpensive steps you can take, which may prevent you from becoming a victim:**

- **Collapse the threads of the bolt so it cannot be unscrewed**
- **spot-weld the bolt at a muffler or metal shop**

If you have to replace a converter, ensure that your mechanic uses one of the above methods to secure it to your vehicle.

For further information, please contact the Long Beach Police Department's Auto Theft Detail at 570-7362.