



KANSAS INSURANCE DEPARTMENT

Vicki Schmidt, Commissioner

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(Anti) Fraud Friday: Protect your ride during National Vehicle Theft Prevention Month

Topeka, Kan. – One motor vehicle is stolen every 32 seconds in the United States, according to data from the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB). The NICB's latest statistics show more than one million vehicles were reported stolen in 2022. The data showed that the U.S. is seeing the highest vehicle theft numbers since 2008 when 1.05 million vehicles were reported stolen. July is National Vehicle Theft Prevention Month, and Kansas Insurance Commissioner Vicki Schmidt encourages Kansans to take steps to help prevent their vehicle from becoming a target of auto thieves.

“Vehicle theft costs Kansans millions both in loss of property and increased insurance premiums,” said Schmidt. “By taking simple steps to protect yourself you can help reduce your chances of being a victim of these types of crimes.”

Vehicle theft is a multi-billion-dollar criminal enterprise in the U.S., costing vehicle owners more than \$8 billion in 2022 alone, and contributing to increased premiums for auto insurance policies. Take these simple precautions to lower your risk of theft:

- Take your vehicle's key; do not leave it in your vehicle.
- Close and lock all windows and doors when you park.
- Park in well-lit areas if possible.
- Never leave valuables in your vehicle, especially if they are in plain sight.
- Consider purchasing a vehicle with or installing an anti-theft system. Some insurance providers even offer anti-theft device discounts.

If you are a victim of vehicle theft, follow these steps:

- Contact police immediately to file a stolen-vehicle report. You will need a copy of the police report and/or a case number to provide to your insurance company. You may also be asked to provide license plate number, make, model, and color of your vehicle; and the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN).
- Contact your insurance company to file a claim within 24 hours of your vehicle being stolen.
- If you find your vehicle before authorities do, contact the police and your insurance company immediately.

For more information on vehicle theft prevention, visit www.nicb.org. If you are shopping for auto insurance coverage, visit insurance.kansas.gov/auto-insurance/.

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*The Kansas Legislature established the Kansas Insurance Department in 1871, currently led by Commissioner Vicki Schmidt. The mission of the Department is to **regulate** companies that sell policies in Kansas to ensure solvency and compliance with state law, **educate** consumers about all things insurance and securities, and **advocate** for a strong and competitive market to give Kansans choices when shopping for products that meet their needs.*