

# Crime Prevention Newsletter

Fort Worth, Texas

July 2007

## Theft Prevention

### Protect your boats and bicycles

Across the nation, as recreational boating continues to gain popularity, more boats, trailers, equipment, electronics and personal items are being stolen each year. Most of these crimes are committed by amateurs who are tempted with an easy opportunity. What can you do to make sure that your boat stays in your possession? Read on for tips on security.

**SECURE IT:** Boats should be covered and secured as completely as possible. Ignition switches should be locked and additional steps such as installing a hidden "kill switch," hidden fuel shut off or removing motor parts such as the coil wire should be considered.

**RECORD IT:** Make a complete inventory of your boat, trailer and equipment. List all electronic gear, binoculars, and outboard motors, personal floatation devices, fishing equipment, etc., by brand, model, and serial numbers if available. Also record your boat by make, model, registration and hull identification number (HIN). Be sure to record the license number of your trailer.

**MARK IT:** Permanently mark or engrave your boat and trailer, and all of your equipment, electronics and personal items which you use regularly on your boat with your vessels (HIN) and/or your driver's license number. Your boat, unless manufactured prior to 1972, will already have a HIN on the transom. Permanently mark your driver's license number in a location that is not readily accessible or noticeable. The same should apply to the trailer.

**PHOTOGRAPH OR FILM IT:** Take pictures or videotape your boat, trailer and equipment from all angles. Keep your master inventory list, along with a copy of your boat and trailer registrations, and your photos or videotape at home in a safe place. It is also a good idea to take a hull rubbing of your HIN and keep it with these papers.

Have questions or comments? Contact the ROCC Headquarters Crime Prevention Specialist Team: R. Carnes, B. Contreras, J. Edwards, or T. Gomez at 593-7200.

## Tips on how to protect your bicycle

Since 1984, the National Bike Registry (NBR®) has been working with law enforcement to return stolen bikes to their rightful owners. A bike registered with NBR, the only true national database, can be identified by police and returned to you instead of being sold at an auction. Unfortunately, bicycles are very easy to steal because they make the perfect getaway vehicle. The following tips will help you protect your bike and lock it with confidence.

- Store your most valued bicycle inside your home, not your garage. If you must store your bike in a garage, use a high-quality U-lock or motorcycle lock and lock your bike to something. In commercial garages, park within sight of an attendant.
- Always lock your frame with a high quality U-lock and secure your wheels.
- Find an appropriate fixed object to lock your bike to. Don't just lock the wheel!
- Remove lights and speedometers when parking your bike. Replace quick-releases with other types of skewers.
- Engrave your bicycle with your driver's license number. If your bicycle is found anywhere in the United States, your driver's license number is a recognizable identifier that a police department would be able to use to try to get the bicycle back to you.

<http://www.nationalbikeregistry.com/>



Report crimes, trespassers and suspicious activities to the ROCC at 800-832-5452.