



Cumberland County Sheriff's Office

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Public Awareness Announcement

In the first 2 weeks of February 2016, there have been **fifteen (15)** vehicles burglarized in the Town of Harpswell. These vehicles were all parked in residential driveways and left UNLOCKED by their owners.

These burglaries occurred in random areas throughout the Town, with a concentration being in the Long Point Rd and Dyers Cove Rd areas.

In 2015, there were 27 reported vehicles burglarized. All of these vehicles were also left UNLOCKED.

SIMPLE TIPS TO HELP FROM BECOMING A BURGLARY TO A MOTOR VEHICLE VICTIM:

- 1) ALWAYS lock your vehicle – even during short periods of time away from your car.
- 2) Remove any valuables from your vehicle – always bring them with you, if possible.
- 3) If not possible, store valuables out of sight – if you can't bring your valuables with you, store them in the vehicle's trunk, for example.
- 4) Park your vehicle in a lit area – outdoor residential lights left on or lights that are connected to motion detector are a good deterrent.
- 5) Report suspicious activity in your neighborhood – no one knows your neighborhood like you do. Report suspicious persons, vehicles, or unusual circumstances immediately by calling 911. A good witness can be instrumental in solving a crime or a series of crimes.

Unlocked vehicles are an EASY target and provide for a crime of easy opportunity. It is true that a car window can easily be broken, but doing so makes noise and takes effort. Criminals hate to make noise and they don't like to work hard. With a little crime prevention effort, they can be virtually stopped. Following these easy tips will go a long way toward reducing motor vehicle burglaries.

WHAT TO DO IF YOUR CAR IS BURGLARIZED

- Do not touch anything on OR around your vehicle and call 893.2810 or 1.800.266.1444. If you do have to leave valuables inside your vehicle, document the item's brand and serial number and store in a safe place. A photograph of the item(s) is also very helpful too. This information can prove very helpful in locating your stolen item(s) and identifying a suspect(s).

Sheriff Kevin J. Joyce