



Myths and Realities Fact Sheet

Vehicle theft is a serious, ongoing phenomenon that has a direct negative impact on the public in Ontario. According to statistics from the Provincial Auto Theft Team (PATT) of the Ontario Provincial Police, 52,000 cars are stolen per year in Ontario at a cost of \$450 to \$500 million, which equals \$48 per insurance holder.

There are many misconceptions about who auto thieves are and what steps drivers can take to protect their vehicles. Below are the most common Myths and Realities about auto theft.

Myths and Realities

Myth # 1: My car will never get stolen.

Reality: It happens to one out of every 100 Canadians every year. No matter what vehicle you drive or how old it is, your vehicle is a target.

Myth # 2: I have an alarm system on my vehicle, which is enough to protect my car from getting stolen.

Reality: Although an alarm system is great common sense, that alone is not enough to protect your car from being stolen. Boomerang Tracking recommends a four layered approach to make sure that your vehicle stays yours: common sense, alarm system, immobiliser and recovery device.

Myth # 3: My car won't get stolen because it's old.

Reality: Older model vehicles are frequently stolen because they generally lack effective anti-theft devices and are stripped for parts, which are resold for larger profits. For example, the 1999 Honda Civic remains the most frequently stolen vehicle in Canada.

Myth # 4: I'm safe from auto theft because I live in a safe neighbourhood or park my car in the garage.

Reality: It's important to remember that according to police, behind each theft is hiding a representative of organized crime. They are using professionals and it's not uncommon for today's thieves to break into homes at night in order to have access to the owner's car keys, often located by the front door

Myth # 5: My insurance company will fully cover me if my car gets stolen.

Reality: Although you may have insurance coverage on your car, you will still probably have to pay a deductible. There's also the pain of losing your vehicle and all the items in the vehicle that are not recovered. Many victims of theft end up with out-of-pocket expenses and unfortunately insurance cannot cover the inconvenience, the hassle of looking for a new vehicle and the feeling of being violated. In addition, the value of the stolen vehicle is often less than the owner thought.

Boomerang's Contribution

- Boomerang Tracking launches Auto Theft Awareness Month in November to educate the public on protecting their vehicles.
- Boomerang Tracking has published a guide to protect vehicles from theft called Keeping Track, available at www.boomerangtracking.com
 - Tests the reader with a Myths and Realities quiz
 - Includes a review of vehicle theft in Canada
 - Describes the four methods of prevention against car theft
- Boomerang Tracking has launched a YouTube channel to better educate drivers. The video entitled "Auto Theft Prevention 101" clip presents these four methods to prevent theft and is viewable at <http://www.youtube.com/boomerangtracking>
- Experts on vehicle theft protection are available for interviews.