Thefts from Vehicles DOUBLE in One Week

SUMMARY: 93 Thefts from vehicles were reported week and police urge citizens not to consider their vehicle a “secure” place to hold property.

Eugene Police have seen a spike in thefts from vehicles within the last week. The difference, in addition to the increase, is the crimes are not concentrated to a single area of town, but everywhere throughout Eugene, from residential neighborhoods to commercial districts.

Officers are finding that the thieves are shattering window to access the laptops, iPods, purses, and GPS devices. Victims often don’t think about backpacks or duffle bags that don’t have anything valuable, but to a criminal those are often too tempting.

Police are urging citizens to remember that a locked vehicle does not equal safe and secure. In nearly half of the reported thefts thieves simply smashed the window to gain access into the cars. Crime Prevention Sergeant Lisa Barrong offers the question, “would you leave the item on your bike sitting unattended?” if the answer is no, you should likely not leave it in the car either. Sergeant Barrong and her staff have been working diligently to remind the public to strategically plan their trips to avoid having to leave items in the vehicle during their next stop. A little extra planning will help save citizens from the frustrating and often costly consequences of returning to find your property stolen and your car window broken.