



For Immediate Release:

Tuesday, May 25, 2004

Joint Press Release: Washington State Patrol, District 8 (700) & Kitsap County Sheriff's Office (125)

Kitsap law enforcement agencies receive enhancement to combat motor vehicle theft

Kitsap County, Wash. -- In an effort to deal with the increasing rate of motor vehicle thefts, Kitsap County law enforcement agencies have entered into a public-private cooperative relationship with the LoJack Corporation. This agreement will allow local agencies to better combat vehicle theft and provides a significant technological tool to assist in recovering vehicles that are reported stolen.

The LoJack Corporation is headquartered in Westwood, Mass.

LoJack Stolen Vehicle Recovery System: The system consists of a small, silent transmitter hidden within a privately owned vehicle. After a law enforcement agency enters a stolen vehicle report into its respective crime information center computer, the LoJack transmitter is activated. The transmitter sends a signal that law enforcement agencies can track utilizing LoJack Police Tracking Computers (PTC) to recover the stolen vehicle (see attached data page).

Local law enforcement agencies receiving PTCs installed within patrol vehicles are:

Washington State Patrol
Kitsap County Sheriff's Office
Bremerton Police Department
Bainbridge Island Police Department
Port Orchard Police Department
Poulsbo Police Department
Suquamish (Tribal) Police Department

Training in the use of the PTCs by patrol officers is provided by the LoJack Corporation. Installation of the PTCs and initial training will be completed by early June. Once the PTCs are installed in patrol vehicles, and the patrol officer has been certified in its use, the system is considered operational.

Media availability: Local and regional print and broadcast media are welcome to attend a portion of the Kitsap County LoJack PTC training. This training will also include a demonstration of the LoJack Stolen Vehicle Recovery System.

Time & date: 2:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 26, 2004

Location: Kitsap County Pavilion, Kitsap County Fairgrounds, 1200 NW Fairgrounds Road, Bremerton, WA 98311 (intersection of NW Fairgrounds Road and Nels Nelson Road, NW, Central Kitsap).

For further information, please contact:

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LoJack Data

The LoJack Corporation is the recognized world leader in stolen vehicle recovery technology. In the United States its stolen vehicle recovery system, utilized by law enforcement agencies, has maintained more than a 90 percent successful recovery rate during the 16 years it has been available to the consumer. LoJack operates coast-to-coast in 21 states and the District of Columbia, representing the areas of the country with the greatest population density, highest number of new vehicle sales and incidents of vehicle theft. LoJack is operated by law enforcement and security organizations in more than 20 countries in Europe, Africa, Asia and the Western Hemisphere.

Up Close: LoJack Stolen Vehicle Recovery System. The LoJack Stolen Vehicle Recovery System consists of several separate components:

- **LoJack Transmitter** – A LoJack customer purchases this small transmitter device for a privately owned vehicle.
- **Hidden** – This device is installed in any of dozens of hidden locations within a vehicle. There are no decals, aerials or other indications that it is present in the vehicle.
- **Silent** – When activated by law enforcement, LoJack transmitter radio frequency signals are inaudible.
- **Powered** – The LoJack transmitter is connected to the car’s electrical system and can also transmit for several days using its own self-contained backup battery.
- **Database** – When a state crime computer receives notification of a stolen vehicle, it connects to a LoJack database to determine if the stolen vehicle is equipped with a LoJack transmitter. If so, that LoJack transmitter is then activated.
- **Radio Towers** – LoJack operates a network of radio towers that communicate with and activate the LoJack transmitter hidden within a stolen vehicle.
- **Police Tracking Computer** – LoJack provides law enforcement tracking computers that are installed within patrol vehicles, helicopters and aircraft. These computers receive signals from the activated LoJack transmitter to lead law enforcement to the stolen vehicle’s location. Only law enforcement agencies can activate a LoJack transmitter. The LoJack Corporation is not able to activate an installed transmitter.

Vehicle Theft Statistics

Federal Bureau of Investigation statistics (2002):

- 1.2 million Vehicles reported stolen in 2002, representing an increase for the third consecutive year after more than a decade of declining vehicle thefts.
- In the U. S., one vehicle is stolen approximately every 26 seconds.
- Auto theft increased by 2 percent in urban areas with the most dramatic increase in the suburbs, where theft rose by 6.8 percent.
- The estimated total value of vehicles stolen nationwide is \$8.4 billion.
- The average value per vehicle was approximately \$6,701 at the time of the theft.
- Most auto theft is carried out by sophisticated professional thieves, rather than by juveniles out for a joyride.

National Insurance Crime Bureau statistics:

Top 10 stolen vehicles in the U. S.:

1. Toyota Camry
 2. Honda Accord
 3. Honda Civic
 4. Oldsmobile Cutlass/Supreme/Ciera
 5. Jeep Cherokee/Grand Cherokee
 6. Chevrolet full-size pick-up truck
 7. Toyota Corolla
 8. Ford Taurus
 9. Chevrolet Caprice
 10. Ford F-150 truck
- Thieves typically choose these vehicles because of their huge profit potential when the vehicles are stripped-down to their components, which then supply a vast black market for stolen parts.
 - The popularity of mini-vans, trucks and SUVs is making them an increasingly attractive target for thieves.
 - Vehicle theft is the costliest property crime in the U. S.
 - Nearly 40 percent of all vehicle thefts occur in or near ports or border communities.

Metropolitan areas (top 10) with highest level of vehicle theft:

1. Phoenix-Mesa, Arizona
2. Fresno, California
3. Modesto, California
4. Stockton – Lodi, California
5. Las Vegas, Nevada
6. Miami, Florida
7. Sacramento, California
8. Oakland, California
9. Seattle – Bellevue – Everett, Washington
10. Tacoma, Washington