

Property crime spiking in South Lake Tahoe

There have been more than three property thefts a day in South Lake Tahoe this month.

Of the 54 thefts reported, 61 percent were a result of unsecured and/or unattended property. This is from vehicles, residences and at public places.

The theft locations include:

- 17 unattended/unsecured property (usually from public places)
- 10 unlocked vehicles (six in the last two days)
- 6 property stolen from business storefronts.

Tips not to be a victim:

- Install a vehicle alarm or mechanical lock for the steering wheel or ignition.
- Lock the doors and leave the windows rolled up.
- Activate any alarms or anti-theft devices.
- Keep valuables out of sight and/or remove them from the vehicle. Expensive items in full view invite theft even if the vehicle is locked.
- Do not leave money, checkbooks, or credit cards in the vehicle at any time.

Preventing bicycle theft:

- Keep bicycles locked any time they are unattended with a good "U" type lock that cannot be cut. Another choice would be a good casehardened padlock and thick cable. Be sure the "U" lock or cable goes through the front wheel, rear wheel and the frame, and secure it to a fixed

object.

- Check the lock by pulling on it to make sure it is secure.
- Purchase Anti-Theft Dots from a local bike shop. Register the serial number with Anti-Theft Dots and add photos of your bike.
- Be sure to retain all evidence of purchase, including the serial number and have them available if your bike is stolen.
- Avoid parking a bicycle in a deserted or poorly lit area.