

WESTERN COLORADO



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NEWS RELEASE

Law Enforcement Puts the Freeze on Auto Theft “Puffer Week” Enforcement Starts January 28



GRAND JUNCTION, Colo - The Western Colorado Auto Theft Task Force (WCATT) and Coloradans Against Auto Theft (CAAT) are teaming up the week of January 28- February 1, as part of a statewide awareness effort to put the brakes on “puffers” – a term coined by car thieves to describe a vehicle left running unattended.

Leaving a vehicle running unattended is illegal in the state of Colorado, yet at least 30 percent of Colorado drivers admit they have left their car running while unattended (Talmey Drake survey).

Members of WCATT will be on the lookout for “puffers”, and will provide educational information to those caught “puffing.” The goal is to educate people about the law, so that their vehicles become less attractive to car thieves.

For more information about protecting yourself from auto theft visit www.lockdownyourcar.org.

WCATT Background

The Western Colorado Auto Theft Task Force (WCATT) was formed in early 2010 through a grant that was received from the Colorado Auto Theft Protection Authority. WCATT is a multi-jurisdictional, part time task force made up of officers from the Grand Junction Police Department, Colorado State Patrol, Mesa County Sheriff’s Department, Fruita Police Department and the Mesa County District Attorney’s Office.

WCATT was formed for the purpose of reducing auto theft within Mesa County, as well as outlying jurisdictions by working proactive operations focused on auto thefts, as well as supporting the prosecution of auto theft defendants. WCATT provides training to law enforcement officers from across the Western Slope of Colorado. The task force also provides prevention training to citizens to make them less attractive targets for criminals.

About Coloradans Against Auto Theft (CAAT)

Coloradans Against Auto Theft (CAAT) is a statewide auto theft prevention initiative to educate the public on what they can do to reduce their chances of becoming a victim of auto theft. CAAT

is a coalition of law enforcement agencies, the Colorado State Patrol, insurance partners, LoJack and AAA Colorado. CAAT and the state auto theft task force efforts are funded in part by the Colorado Auto Theft Prevention Authority (CATPA).

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