



October 21, 2020

Dealer Alert

SECURE YOUR VEHICLES, KEYS AND CASH

We have been asked by GTA law enforcement to warn UCDA Members about a growing trend seen over the last two weeks of break-ins at dealerships and repair facilities. The thieves are opportunistic, targeting keys and luxury vehicles, as well as cash.

The suspect(s) appear to have a strong interest in Mercedes, BMW, Range Rover and Lexus, but they have also stolen other vehicles.

The suspect(s) are breaking glass entrances and accessing filing cabinets, key boxes and point of sale terminals in search of keys and cash. The suspect(s) take advantage of slow response times by alarm companies and remain in the business premises for extended periods. Audible alarms seem not to deter them. They seem to know what they are doing.

As of now, businesses in Ajax, Pickering, York Region and Bolton have been victimized.

Police Services are actively investigating these incidents.

Meanwhile, the Police ask that you protect your assets. They strongly suggest dealers and repairers take all keys at the end of the day to a secure off-site location or use a commercial grade locked safe on-site. You should review operating procedures with your alarm companies and ensure video surveillance is functioning. It's also good practice to maintain low levels of "float" cash on site, especially when you are closed.

Finally, consider posting a large visible sign at access points to your business that ***"There Are No Keys or Cash on Site"***.