



Vacaville Police Department
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Press Release

Today's Date: February 24, 2015
Date & Time of Event: March 14, 2014
Submitted By: Gretchen Ash, Crime Prevention/Community Outreach
Phone: 707-449-5432
Event: Community Event/Operation Etch n' Catch
Location: 1001 Allison Drive

'OPERATION ETCH N' CATCH' DESIGNED TO STOP CATALYTIC CONVERTER THEFT

In an effort to stem the increase in thefts of catalytic converters from vehicles in Vacaville, a program designed to help reunite owners with their stolen property is being held in March.

"Operation Etch N' Catch" will be take place from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. on Saturday, March 14, 2015 at the City of Vacaville's Maintenance Facility, located at 1001 Allison Drive.

The vehicle's California license plate number will be etched onto the heat shield of the catalytic converter. This identifiable etching will help law enforcement officers identify the victim of the theft and return the property to the owner.

Vehicle models eligible for this service include Dodge Ram Trucks, Toyota pick-ups, Sequoias, Tacomas, and 4-Runners. This offer is available for anyone who lives or works in Vacaville, and appointments are required.

Trucks and Sport Utility Vehicles (SUVs) are prime targets for thieves looking to steal catalytic converters, which are part of the exhaust system. Located underneath the vehicle, the catalytic converter is designed to reduce the toxicity of emissions from a vehicle's engine.

Thieves steal catalytic converters because they contain small amounts of precious metals including platinum, palladium and rhodium. Dodge Ram Trucks, Toyota Trucks and SUVs have been specifically targeted because of their higher ground clearance levels, providing easy access to thieves, who can steal the converters in as little as 90 seconds. Owners often only realize their catalytic converter has been stolen when they hear an abnormally loud exhaust noise upon starting their vehicle. The cost to the owner for replacement of these devices can range between \$300 and \$3,500.

(More)



Catalytic converters do not have serial numbers or identifiable markings, making it very difficult for law enforcement officers to return the property to the owner when suspects are arrested with these stolen vehicle parts in their possession.

If you have any questions regarding this free service, if you want to find out if your vehicle is eligible, or if you would like to make an appointment, please contact the Vacaville Police Department's Crime Prevention/Community Outreach Unit at 707-449-5432.

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