



PRESS RELEASE

Tacoma Police Department
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cityoftacoma.org/police

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Kia and Hyundai Vehicle Thefts on the Rise

Tacoma Police Department and law enforcement agencies all over the country, are seeing an uptick in vehicle thefts. Kia and Hyundai vehicles make up the greatest percentage of those thefts. From January 1 to January 15, 2023, 348 vehicles were stolen in Tacoma, 48% of which were Kia and Hyundai models. Comparatively, between January 1 through January 15, 2022, 207 vehicles were stolen, of which 5% were Kia and Hyundai models.

The vehicles most at risk for theft are 2011 – 2021 Kia models and 2015 – 2021 Hyundai models that require a key to turn on the ignition.

Recommendations to help prevent vehicle theft:

- Install a steering wheel locking device
- Install a battery disconnect switch
- Install a kill switch (may require professional installation)
- Install an aftermarket anti-theft system (may require professional installation)
- Lock all windows and doors

- Park in a well-lit area
- Park in a secured location (garage, parking structure, etc.)
- Install a GPS tracking device

If you see someone trying to steal a vehicle, do not confront them, call 911. If your vehicle is stolen and the crime is not in progress, call the non-emergency number at (253) 287-4455.

TPD urges guardians to be aware:

Many of the Kia and Hyundai vehicles stolen recently have been used in violent crimes including armed robberies, drive-by shootings, and joyriding on city streets at high rates of speed. The suspects, and victims, in these cases are often juveniles. The Tacoma Police Department urges parents to speak with their children about the dangers of these activities.