



MARIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
BUREAU OF ADMINISTRATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES
PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS UNIT

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Two Juveniles Arrested in Thefts from Vehicles

San Rafael, CA- Over the past four weeks, approximately 50 thefts from unlocked vehicles have occurred in the areas of Santa Venetia, Lucas Valley and Marinwood. Additional thefts and stolen vehicles have also occurred in the city of Novato.

Yesterday, detectives from the Marin County Sheriff's Office, working in collaboration with detectives from the Novato Police Department, identified five juvenile suspects, two of whom were booked into Juvenile Hall last night by officers from the Novato PD. In interviews, the juveniles described how they rapidly sweep through residential neighborhoods at nighttime, trying the door handles on every car they come across, and taking anything of value. *Only unlocked cars were targeted.* Vehicles with keys left inside were stolen and later recovered in Novato, some containing property previously stolen.

One of the suspects, a 16 year old male resident of San Rafael, was found by MCSO detectives at an apartment complex in the 800 block of Las Gallinas Avenue in San Rafael. He was captured after a short foot pursuit that resulted in minor injuries to two of the detectives. A second suspect, a 17 year old male resident of Novato, was located in Novato by Novato PD officers. Both suspects were booked by Novato PD officers at Marin County Juvenile Hall. The investigation is ongoing, with charges against the other three suspects anticipated.

As a reminder, to reduce the chance of becoming a victim of an automobile burglary or theft, please remember the following crime prevention tips:

√ Always lock your car when you park it. Often thieves choose to steal from a car simply because it is easy to get into. Nothing is easier to break into than an unlocked car.

√ Take the car keys with you.

√ Make sure the trunk or tailgate is also locked. Remember that some trunks can be opened from inside the car.

√ Leave all windows closed. Many thieves have tools that allow them to enter a vehicle through very small openings.

√ When you leave the vehicle, remove cellular phones, cameras, money and other valuable possessions from the vehicle.

√ Do not leave any valuable items on the seat or in plain view of someone looking in from

outside the vehicle. Lock valuable items in the trunk or take them with you.

√ Put valuable items in the trunk before you get to your destination. Someone may be watching if you wait to put your valuables in the trunk after you've parked.

√ Lock your car, even if you are making a quick stop at a gas station or convenience store.

√ At night, park in well-lit areas.

√ If you have an alarm or other anti-theft device, use it each time you park. This could include a switch or key that, when removed, disables the ignition or gas flow.

If you see suspicious activity or if you are a victim of a theft, notify your local law enforcement authorities immediately. If you live in the jurisdiction of the Marin County Sheriff's Office, the fastest way to reach us is by dialing **9-1-1** on a regular landline telephone. Keep in mind that if you use a cellular phone to dial **9-1-1**, it may be answered by the California Highway Patrol office. They can forward a call to the Marin County Sheriff's Office, but there will be a delay while the call is transferred. For any non-emergency situations, you can call our non-emergency number: **415-479-2311**.

Detectives recovered a large amount of stolen property, including Ipods, cell phones, cameras, binoculars and laptop computers. Detectives are working on trying to identify the owners of some of the property recovered in this case. Anyone with information can call Sheriff's detectives at 415-499-7265 or Bay Area Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-222-TIPS and possibly receive a cash reward.