

City of Broken Arrow Police Department  
Phone: 918.451.8213  
Mobile: 918.693.9917  
Fax: 918.451.8242

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**RE: Upswing in car break-ins via “Car Hopping” method**

In our city one of the most common property crimes is automobile burglary. We typically see an uptick in these crimes over the summer months. This year has been no different.

Since May 2011 through July 26, 2011 we have had over 40 reported car break-ins in Broken Arrow.

Quick Tips:

- Always remove valuables from your vehicle
- Lock your car doors
- Park car in garage if possible, second best choice would be driveway
- Report suspicious activity to the police at 918-451-8400
- See crime trends in your neighborhood at [www.crimereports.com](http://www.crimereports.com).

We’d like to make the community aware of a growing crime trend we have seen time and again. It’s a method of auto burglary called “**car hopping**.”

“**Car hopping**” is the practice of attempting to locate unlocked or unsecured vehicles by pulling on door handles. If the criminal finds an open door, he or she will rummage through the car stealing any items which might catch their fancy.

We have seen cars selected for items as trivial as loose change, cigarettes and sunglasses. Of course, valuable electronic items such as laptop computers, GPS units, I-Pods, and car audio equipment are preferred items of choice by crooks. “**Car hopping**” can be a crime of opportunity, however, we frequently run into two or more suspects working in concert. Often times, those involved will coordinate their efforts by using cell phones. It is not uncommon for one individual to drive and lookout while another actively searches for and commits the unlawful entry into unlocked cars. It is important to realize that the people doing this will bypass locked cars. They are looking for the path of least resistance. “**Car hoppers**” like to try many different vehicles to see what they easily can get. Places like apartment complexes, movie theaters, and residential neighborhoods are favored hunting grounds for these people.

Some of the individuals we have caught “**car hopping**” mistakenly believe that entering an unlocked vehicle somehow makes them less responsible or accountable for their actions. However, unlawfully entering a vehicle with the intent to steal completes the crime of second degree burglary which is a felony here in Oklahoma.

Please help us in our duties by making your car a harder target for thieves. Let’s cooperate in our efforts to keep Broken Arrow one of Oklahoma’s safest cities and put “**car hoppers**” out of business.