




## **LOCK, TAKE, HIDE CAMPAIGN GETS NEW LIFE April 1, 2011**



There were 854 car burglaries reported to the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office in 2010 and the majority of cars targeted were unlocked. In fact, car burglaries are typically crimes of opportunity involving juveniles trying doors to see what is "easy pickings". And along with the loss of your valuables, consider this: a spin-off crime related to stolen drivers licenses and credit cards involves stolen identities.

The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office, Okaloosa County Parks and Recreation Department, and Target  have joined forces in a push to promote a public education campaign that reminds residents and tourists to lock their cars, take their keys, and hide their belongings.

Target has funded a 15-hundred dollar grant for the purchase of "Lock, Take, Hide" signs and educational hand-outs. Okaloosa County has agreed to put up the signs at parks around the county. Destin Sheriff's Investigator Stefan Vaughn and Crime Prevention Specialist Ashley Bailey worked together on the campaign, based on a similar successful project in Dallas, Texas.

Over the past five years there has been an upswing in the number of reported car burglaries in Okaloosa County, but preventative information like this campaign will hopefully get the numbers heading the opposite direction.

- 2006 - 649
- 2007 - 725
- 2008 - 727
- 2009 - 831
- 2010 - 854

