

Help Eliminate Auto Theft

The Warren County Sheriff's Office implemented H.E.A.T. as part of its crime prevention program in 1988. H.E.A.T. is provided through the Virginia Department of State Police and awards up to a \$25,000 reward for auto theft tips. The tip hotline phone number is 1-800-947-HEAT. H.E.A.T. supports auto and motorcycle theft awareness and prevention by providing information and conducting vehicle identification numbers etching programs for vehicles. Statewide statistics regarding auto theft trends are compiled and provided to law enforcement agencies throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The Warren County Sheriff's Office has achieved numerous first and second place H.E.A.T. awards over the years for participation in the program. One of the many prevention themes of the H.E.A.T. program is to impress upon Virginia drivers the importance of "not leaving the ignition keys in an unattended vehicle". National statistics denote a staggering 20% of all stolen vehicles had keys left in the ignition, doors unsecured, and/or the engines left running. Also, the majority of these thefts occurred at convenience stores, shopping centers, and service stations. The Warren County Sheriff's Office has proactively addresses this situation by placing H.E.A.T. reminder posters titled Take Your Keys or Take Your Chances on front doors and windows of various local business establishments.

Based on state statistics, Warren County currently has a lower than average auto theft incidence rate. More information on the H.E.A.T. Program may be obtained at the H.E.A.T. website www.heatreward.com.