

Hi folks,

It was great meeting the many new CyberWatch members at the SSCA Annual Business Meeting in the Elks Lodge last month.

Also, thanks to all the many folks who signed up as new CyberWatch members. Working together, we can maintain the distinction of being one of the safest neighborhoods in the entire South Bay. (See attachment of South Shores and San Pedro 1st quarter Crime Map).

The shift in crime trend continues. Nearly all crimes were automobile related vs. home break-ins of past years. Reason: much safer caper for the bad guys. Comparatively, lower risk with often high rewards. Laptops, smart phones, even cash.

SOUTH SHORES QUARTERLY CRIME REPORT - JANUARY 1 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2024 -

GRAND THEFT AUTO

February 11 - 1800 block of Pescadores Avenue - 11:00 p.m.

February 19 - 1700 block of Mermaid Drive - 8:30 p.m.

ATTEMPTED THEFT OF AUTOMOBILE

January 28 - 2100 block of 25th Street - 8:45 p.m.

February 18 - 1600 block of W. 22nd Street - 7:00 p.m.

GRAND THEFT FROM VEHICLE (\$950.01 AND OVER)

January 3 - 1800 block of 26th Street. - 5:00 a.m.

January 19 - 2100 block of Grenadier Drive - 2:52 a.m.

PETTY THEFT FROM VEHICLE (\$950.00 AND UNDER)

January 3 - 2200 block of S. Western Avenue - 11:25 p.m.

February 13 - 1700 block of W. 27th Street - 11:00 a.m.

March 30 - 2000 block of S. Moray Avenue - 2:05 a.m.

PETTY THEFT FROM PROPERTY.

(\$950.00 AND UNDER) driveways, lawns, garages)

January 11 - 2600 block of South Anchovy Avenue - 6:00 p.m.

BURGLARY

January 22 - 2700 block of Graysby Avenue - 3:50 a.m.

So, there you have it.

Please bear in mind that this Crime Summary includes **only those crimes where a formal police report was filed** with the Harbor LAPD. This Crime Summary does not include crimes where NO police report was filed.

How to avoid becoming a victim?

It's an amazing fact that nearly all the vehicles victimized in these thefts were **unlocked!** So, it looks like the easiest and best protection is to simply lock the doors of our cars parked outside overnight. It's true. That would reduce our risk quite a bit. Nearly all our video clips show one or more guys strolling down the middle of the street, shining flashlights into vehicles, then pulling the door handle. Door locked? The bad guys just move on.

But, before we get too confident, I just needed to share this email from CyberWatcher Daniel from a few days ago:

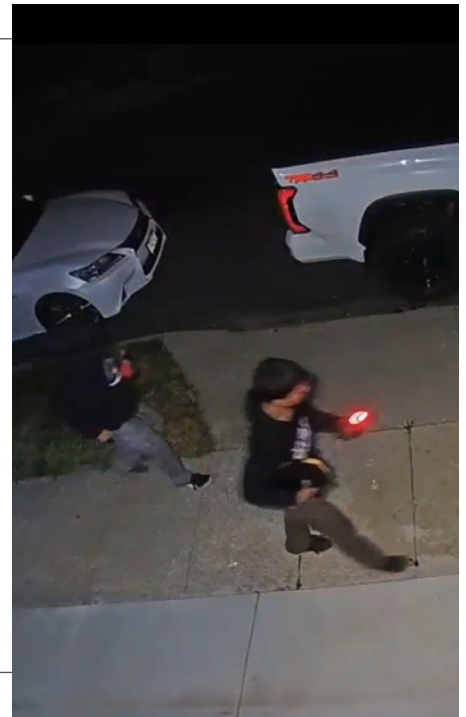
"Hi Bob of CyberWatch.

3 cars on Moray since Mar.14. The last one on Sat March 30th has been broken into. Subjects are seen with a hand held device popping door locks on cars.

Best way to prevent this: Put all vehicle fobs in a Faraday box or bag (Amazon \$10 to \$90 bucks). Metal boxes or foil will also work.

Some great footage on YouTube shows how the bad guys are breaking into our cars using these devices and how to further protect ourselves.

--Daniel"



Thanks for the "heads-up", Daniel.

We've been following this growing type of crime for a while.

Here's what we learned:

Organized crime, working world wide with sophisticated thieves, are involved in a very lucrative, high-tech theft called "**Key Fob Relay Attack**".

Their goal is to steal cars that use a keyless ignition fob and drive it to a waiting container at the docks. That container, usually carrying 4 cars, is then swiftly shipped overseas to waiting buyers.

Without getting too technical, here's how it works:

1. Your key fob, with buttons you press to enter and even start your car, is constantly emitting a signal. It's powered by a small battery. Two thieves usually work this theft as a team.
2. Thief #1, standing in your driveway near the front door, has a device that actually reads and captures the constant signal being emitted by the key fob located in your house. The special device can steal your signal from as far away as 30 feet...without entering your house..
3. Thief #1 then transmits your key fob's signal to Thief #2's key fob.
4. Thief #2 then uses his key fob...which now has your key fob's signal... to open your vehicle and, with keyless ignition cars, actually start and steal your car. Your car is then headed for the docks and its designated container waiting to be shipped overseas.
5. Thief #1 then drives away in his own car.

How to prevent this from happening to you:

Store your key fob in a small Faraday pouch...available from Amazon for as little as \$8.99. The pouch's special metal lining protects your key fob's signal from being read and stolen by the thieves' device.

You can also see some excellent videos on this subject by accessing [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com) and searching for "**Key Fob Relay Attack**".

In the meantime, folks, let's just be sure to lock our cars parked outside overnight...every night. That step will go a long way in keeping our stuff safe from the many ordinary criminals who test our door handles every night. Also, please leave nothing on your car seats overnight.

Thanks, CyberWatchers, for your continued vigilance this past quarter. It's making a difference!

Observe and report.

Be well and stay safe.

Bob

