



CAROLINE COUNTY

Sheriff's Office

An Accredited Law Enforcement Agency

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PRESS RELEASE

H.E.A.T COMES TO CAROLINE COUNTY

H.E.A.T. (Help Eliminate Auto Theft) is a cooperative effort of the Virginia Department of State Police, Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles and local law enforcement agencies throughout the Commonwealth.

Caroline County, Virginia – On April 23 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. the Caroline County Sheriff's Office and the Virginia State Police (VSP) will give the public the opportunity to help reduce vehicle theft. The CCSO and VSP will be offering free Vehicle Identification Number etching in the parking lot of the Ladysmith Pharmacy located at 18014 Jefferson Davis Highway.

Motor vehicle thefts in Virginia increased from 15,022 offenses in 1987 to 21,284 offenses in 1991, a 42% increase. Since HEAT began in 1992, motor vehicle thefts have decreased by a little over 46% as compared to the base year of 1991. There were 11,451 thefts in 2009.

All vehicles carry a federally-assigned number known as a Vehicle Identification Number (VIN). Making sure those numbers are marked permanently on a vehicle's windows steers thieves away. Why? Well, for one thing, disposing of a vehicle whose windows have been VIN etched takes time, trouble and money, all in short supply for thieves. That's because the windows of stolen VIN Etched vehicles must be stripped and replaced before a thief can get rid of the car, a costly and time-consuming process. And VIN Etching obliterates any potential profit professional thieves might have gleaned from the lucrative practice of selling windows and windshields for parts via chop shops.

VIN Etching is simple, fast, safe and won't mar the look of the vehicle. Numbers are etched into the glass with a chemical solution. And those numbers will be there for good. VIN Etching is available for all vehicles including motorcycles.

For more information on these or other programs please call 804-633-1120 or visit the Caroline County Sheriff's Office at 118 Courthouse Lane in the Town of Bowling Green.



HEAT
HELP ELIMINATE AUTO THEFT
1-800-947-HEAT