



NEWS RELEASE

OCEAN CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT
OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND 21842

410-723-6603: News Media Information
410-723-6610: General Police Information
443-235-4458: PIO Cell Phone

AIR BAG THEFTS REPORTED

Ocean City officers took reports for seven thefts of automotive airbags today. The OCPD began receiving calls from victims this morning. The thefts occurred at mid-town motels and condominiums including the Holiday Inn, 67th Street, Century I, Clarion, and Plaza Condominium.

In every case the suspect broke a rear window with some type of tool. The thieves stole only the airbag, and left other valuables in the cars. In every case the victim's cars were General Motors products. All of the cars were parked in the building's parking lots.

According to the National Insurance Crime Bureau, more than 50,000 airbags are stolen annually, resulting in a loss exceeding \$50,000,000. The replacement cost to consumers is usually between \$500 - \$1,200 to replace.

The NICB offers the following tips to reduce airbag fraud:

1. Inspect the invoice to ensure the repair shop purchased the airbag from a manufacturer, dealer or recycler.
2. If possible, inspect the airbag before installation. If new, it should be packaged in a sealed container from the manufacturer.
3. The trim cover over the steering column should be the same color as the remaining trim interior. If not, it is an indication that the original airbag has been replaced.

Anyone with information regarding these thefts is asked to contact the Ocean City Police Department Criminal Investigation Division at 410-723-6604.

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