

One of the most important tools used in reducing vehicle theft is training. That is why the Authority continues with its multi-faceted training program.

Patrol Officer Training Program

In 2010, the Authority continued to deliver auto theft identification and investigation courses to Pennsylvania law enforcement officers statewide. The Authority's curriculum includes a series of six training courses, which are offered free to Pennsylvania law enforcement agencies. Each program lasts two to four hours and is targeted to the professional police officer. Since the inception of the program in 2005, the Authority has provided vehicle theft training to over 3,200 police officers in the Commonwealth.

Auto Theft 101 is designed to teach patrol officers what to look for during traffic stops and update them on laws concerning auto theft-related crime. The course also includes information about VIN numbers, titles and license plates, as well as methods of theft.

Auto Theft 102 was developed for officers who will be participating in stolen vehicle investigations. The course addresses vehicle identification and methods used to alter VINs.

Auto Theft 103 focuses on identifying all-terrain vehicles.

Auto Theft 104 addresses motorcycle identification.

Auto Theft 105 discusses heavy equipment identification.

Auto Theft 106 teaches officers how to identify trucks, tractors and semi-trailers.

Annual Training Conference

The Authority hosts an annual training conference. The conference is open to all grantees and features special seminars designed to provide law enforcement with training beyond what is offered through the Authority's standard curriculum. This year, the conference topic was cargo theft investigations, in response to an increase in cargo theft cases in Pennsylvania and across the country. Experts were brought in from NJ and U.S. Customs to offer training in cargo theft investigations and trends, trailer seals and leaking, as well as an understanding of the trucking industry. The gathering was an effective way to learn, network and discuss collaborative cases and share information.

Owner Give-up Training

As economic conditions continue to deteriorate, law enforcement agencies across the state and insurance companies should be on the look out for owner give-ups. An "owner give-up" is when someone falsely reports his car stolen to escape car payments. It inflates auto theft rates and wastes police time investigating a crime that never occurred. The Authority offers, DVDs free-of-charge, designed to educate law enforcement professionals and insurance company special investigative units on how to detect this type of auto-related crime.

MYTH:

No one is paying attention
to auto theft crime in PA.