

Ohio State Highway Patrol

Media Release

General Headquarters • Columbus, Ohio



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Trooper's recovered 721 stolen vehicles last year, with a cash value of more than \$5 million

COLUMBUS – Through successful traffic enforcement and criminal interdiction operations, Ohio State Highway Patrol troopers recovered 721 stolen vehicles, valued at \$5,194,598 throughout the state last year, with 555 of those resulting in apprehensions.

Vehicle theft reduction has always been a priority in Ohio, but the effort has taken on additional importance as it relates to preventing other crimes in our state. State troopers, along with local law enforcement officials throughout the state are well aware that criminals are traveling in stolen vehicles amidst unsuspecting and law-abiding motorists in an attempt to carry out their crimes.

In addition to recovering stolen vehicles, last year troopers made 5,244 Misdemeanor Criminal Arrests and 1,540 Felony Arrests, through their enforcement efforts and arrested 4,467 persons who were wanted on outstanding warrants, of which 967 were wanted felons.

According to federal sources, vehicle theft is the second most profitable crime in the United States, surpassed only by the illegal narcotics trade. The ongoing efforts of Ohio troopers continue to be a driving force in the overall reduction of auto theft and are having a significant impact on related crimes across the state.

To see a map of where these stolen vehicle recoveries occurred, check out the Patrol's Web site at statepatrol.ohio.gov.

State troopers recommend the following precautions be used to protect your vehicle from break-ins, which could lead to theft of the vehicle itself, or of property inside the vehicle:

1. Never leave your car running or leave the keys in the ignition when it is unattended.
2. Keep your car doors locked at all times.
3. If you have a garage, park your car inside and lock the garage door.
4. Don't store packages or valuables in plain sight.
5. Park your car in a safe, well-lit, or well-traveled area at night.
6. Have your vehicle identification number etched into the windows and major parts of your car to make your car harder to resell on the black market.
7. Avoid parking your car in a long-term parking lot.
8. Take out any removable electronic devices, like CD players or GPS navigation systems, when you leave your car.

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