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JAMAICA PLAIN

Police in Jamaica Plain warn of recent rise in car wheel, tire theft

Posted by Matt Rocheleau May 23, 2012 04:46 PM

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By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

Police in Jamaica Plain are warning area motorists about an increase in reports of wheels and tires being stolen from parked cars, with some vehicles being left resting atop cinder blocks.

Most cars being targeted are Honda Fit and Honda Civic models, according to an e-mail sent to community members from the District E-13 station of the Boston Police Department.

A law enforcement official said those car models are targeted because their smaller wheels are not only easier to steal, but are also particularly desirable for reuse, because, when affixed to other car models, they allow those vehicles to ride lower to the ground.

The majority of the incidents have occurred overnight with most vehicle owners finding their cars' wheels replaced by cinder blocks, the e-mail said.

Police urge the community to take precautions to avoid being victimized,

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including that drivers and vehicle owners lock the lug nuts on their vehicles' wheels to make removing them more difficult.

Officers also advise drivers and vehicle owners: to install a car alarm, especially if the vehicle is regularly parked at an apartment building lot or on roadways; to park their cars in a garage, behind a locked gate, in a driveway or well-lit area if possible; and not to leave valuable items in plain view.

Authorities said suspicious people or activity in parking lots should be reported to police immediately.

E-mail Matt Rocheleau at mjrochele@gmail.com.

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