



True Blue Report

Quarterly Newsletter of the Louisiana State Police Insurance Fraud / Auto Theft Unit

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Louisiana State Police
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UPCOMING SIU MEETINGS

November 7, 2007 9:30am
Baton Rouge LSP HQ

December 5, 2007 10:00am
Bossier PD Training Academy



Field Office Highlights:

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Cloned Vehicles

Cloning is a crime in which stolen vehicles assume the identity of non-stolen, legally owned, vehicles that are a similar make and model. By applying counterfeit labels, plates, stickers and titles to stolen vehicles, criminals can make them appear as if they are legitimate, legally owned cars and trucks. These criminals-many of whom participate in organized crime rings specializing in vehicle cloning schemes-then sell the stolen vehicles to unsuspecting consumers.

The result is that you have two or more vehicles that look exactly alike...at least by their identification documents and vehicle tags. The reality is that only one of them is a legitimate, legally owned vehicle. The rest are stolen and have been disguised to look like the legitimate one.

Vehicle Cloning Prevention

Tips:

- Check the vehicle's VIN with appropriate government agencies and your state Office of Motor Vehicles
- Analyze the ownership pattern for any new or late model vehicle with no lien holder.
- Have a private company conduct a vehicle history search.
- Trust your instincts: If a used vehicle deal sounds too good to be true, walk away.

Information provided by NICB. For more information on cloned vehicles go to www.nicb.org

Cloned DOT Truck in Texas

Texas law enforcement officers stopped a cloned Texas Department of Transportation truck on IH10 in Gonzales, TX on August 30, 2007.

The dark tint along with the markings on the truck appeared suspicious. The exempt tag came back registered to a Ford van from the City of La Joya, TX. When the driver exited the vehicle, The Trooper smelled the odor of marijuana. Upon further inspection, 1,006 pounds of marijuana were discovered hidden throughout the vehicle.

Information & pictures provided by the FBI.





TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

NW3C

Global Conference
October 24-26, 2007
Washington D.C.
www.nw3c.org

NHCAA

2007 Annual Training Conf.
December 4-7, 2007
Anaheim, CA
www.nhcaa.org

Welcome to IFU:

Darren Foil

Investigator
Baton Rouge

Russell Graham

Trooper
Baton Rouge

Carlos Ratliff

Trooper
Shreveport



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Alexandria - 3654 Government St., Alexandria LA 71302, (318) 484-2423

Stolen Vehicle Leads to Homicide Suspect

Louisiana State Police Insurance Fraud / Auto Theft Unit Alexandria Field Office concluded a two month investigation into an allegation of auto theft in Natchitoches, Louisiana with the arrest of a New Orleans resident. State Police received a request for assistance with a stolen vehicle investigation from the Alexandria Police Department. Based on information gathered from the Natchitoches Police De-

partment, Carrollton Police Department (Texas), the Gregg County Sheriff's Office (Texas) and the New Orleans Police Department Homicide Unit, investigators were able to determine that a New Orleans man stole a 1994 Jeep Cherokee from a parking lot in Natchitoches, Louisiana. During the investigation, agents



also ob-

tained evidence linking the man to the illegal taking of two other vehicles and to the homicide of his girlfriend. After a warrant was obtained for the New Orleans man's arrest, investigators located him in the Cobb County Jail in Marietta, Georgia. He was released to Louisiana authorities and is pending adjudication of unrelated charges in Cobb County, Georgia. NOPD Homicide is pursuing charges against the Louisiana man for the death of his girlfriend in New Orleans on June 2, 2007.

Baton Rouge - 7919 Independence Blvd., Baton Rouge LA 70806, (225) 925-3818

False Report

On September 22, 2005, a Baton Rouge woman filed a police report with Baton Rouge Police Department stating her 2003 Mustang was stolen. The



same day she contacted her insurance provider, and filed a claim. She stated to her insurance company that her vehicle was stolen from a shelter in Baton Rouge and recovered abandoned and wrecked in Glynn, Louisiana.

An investigation into the woman's claim discovered that her vehicle was not stolen, but crashed one evening after she left a Daiquiri Shop in New Roads. The investigation determined that the Baton

Rouge woman intentionally filed a fraudulent claim with her insurance company in attempts to deceive them out of monies that she would not have been entitled to if the truth would have been known. She also filed a false public record with the Baton Rouge Police Department when she stated her Mustang had been stolen. Her actions were violations of Insurance Fraud and Filing or Maintaining False Public Records.

Lafayette - 113 Borman Drive, Lafayette, LA 70508, (337) 262-2051

"Knock, Knock." "Who's There?"

After receiving a request for assistance from the Lafayette Police Department and the Lafayette Parish Sheriff's Office, the Lafayette field office began an investigation into the theft of a 1987 Toyota MR2 valued at \$10,000 and a set of rims and tires valued at \$4,800 all of which were stolen from the lot of a Lafayette car dealership. The vehicle had been found, partially dismantled, in a

rural location. A confidential informant provided information about the persons who committed the crimes and where the items were being, or had been, stored along with other items stolen in residential and construction burglaries throughout the parish. However, the information was not strong enough to obtain a search warrant. With nothing to lose, Troopers elected to do a "knock and talk" investigation. After obtaining written

permission to search, the tires and rims were recovered as well as numerous tools, power equipment and even a small amount of marijuana. The knock and talk investigation was completely successful and resulted in the arrests of three young adults and two separate agencies being able to clear a minimum of six cases.



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Monroe - 3030 Aurora Ave., Suite 107, Monroe LA 71201, (318) 362-4588

False Burglary Claim

A Louisiana man falsely claimed his 2001 Ford King Ranch edition truck had been burglarized in Monroe, Louisiana on January 28, 2007. He stated all four (4) leather seats, two (2) consoles, a CD player and a

CD changer were stolen. He



claimed he had no prior theft losses involving his vehicle. Investigation revealed this was the man's third claim with similar circumstances. On August 3, 2007, he surrendered to investigators at the Ouachita Correctional Center where he was booked for Insurance Fraud.

New Orleans - 2400 Veteran's Memorial Blvd., Suite 200, Kenner LA 70062, (504) 471-2716

False Claims

Following Hurricane Katrina, a New Orleans business owner filed a business interruption claim with his insurance company. He claimed he was unable to conduct business, from August 29, 2005 to November 21, 2005, due to the physical damage sustained to his office as well as the displacement of his employees. He estimated his business interruption losses to be over \$250,000. On No-

vember 3, 2005 the insurance company advanced the New Orleans business owner a check for \$100,000 and began the process of verifying the amount of his business interruption losses. Furthermore, during the claim period he was adamant about his losses and sent correspondence to his insurance company explaining his position.

In December 2005, the business man's insurance company

was reviewing another insured's claim and discovered an invoice within that claim for work done by his company. An investigation of claims by other customers of the insurance company revealed that the New Orleans business man conducted over \$58,000 worth of work during the period he was claiming business interruption losses. A complaint was then filed with the Louisiana State Police Insurance Fraud Unit.

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Shreveport - 3010 Knight St., Suite 220, Shreveport LA 71105, (318) 862-9913

Opportunity Knocks

Based on a theft complaint from a Houston trucking company, officers with the Houston Police Department, Major Offenders Division, began an investigation of the company's foreman. As their case developed, officers discovered their subject not only embezzled over \$100,000 from the trucking company, but may have assisted one of his truck drivers, a Louisiana native, to commit insurance fraud while in Shreveport.

After receiving the referral, IF/ATU Troopers initiated an investigation of the Shreveport man's activities. Their prelimi-

nary review determined the man collected an estimated \$3,000 in lost wages while still collecting his regular paycheck from his employer.

As their investigation progressed, Troopers determined the man was involved in a traffic crash in October 2005, while in Shreveport for the weekend. Soon afterward, he began treatment with an area doctor for soft tissue injuries sustained in the crash. With "Mr. Opportunity" knocking at his door with an offer for additional cash, the man obtained work excuses from his doctor and submitted them to his insurance company claiming he was unable to work due to his

injuries.

As Troopers compared the dates of the doctors' appointments with his work schedule, it was confirmed the man "double dipped" at his insurance carrier's expense. With the information obtained from the Houston Police Department, NICB and trucking company owners, Troopers were able to show the man filed for lost wages on at least 8 days while still collecting his regular pay from the trucking company.



Trooper
Spotlight:
**Sanikka
Williams**

Trooper First Class Sanikka Williams has been employed with Louisiana State Police since October 27, 2001. Trooper Williams transferred to BOI/Insurance Fraud Unit in August 2006 after patrolling approximately 5 years in the Troop F area. TFC Williams has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice and is expecting her second child in January 2008. TFC Williams, her husband Roy, and son Jabrell are very excited and are presently working on a name for "another" boy.

LINKS:

www.lsp.org/ifu.html

www.lds.state.la.us

www.helpstopfraud.org

www.nw3c.org

www.insurancefraud.org

www.nicb.org

Auto Theft Awards

TFC Prentiss Bellue
 ACE

TFC Kevin Curlee
 Blue Max/ACE

TPR Steven Linn
 ACE

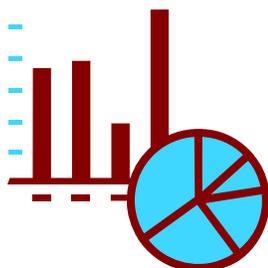
TPR Brad Tate
 ACE



TFC Bellue receiving ACE award



TPR Tate receiving ACE award



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Social Security Admin/Cooperative Disability Investigations

4354 S. Sherwood Forest Blvd. D-125, Baton Rouge LA 70816,(225) 298-5566

SSA/CDI	
New Allegations	60
Cases Opened	50
Cases Closed	39
SSA Savings	\$1,833,206
Non SSA Savings	\$988,644

False Claims....continued from page 3

Further investigations, which included an analysis of bank records for the business, revealed that the business owner had not sustained business interruption losses. Between August 29, 2005 and November 21, 2005 he conducted business transactions with fifty-five separate entities. Approximately \$290,000 was deposited into his business bank account from these transactions. In addition, several of his clients were contacted and confirmed they conducted business with the New Orleans business owner during the period he was claiming busi-

ness interruption losses.

The investigations revealed that the business owner's claim was fraudulent. He repeatedly and knowingly made false statements to his insurance company in order to pursue a business interruption claim. On August 23, 2007,

the New Orleans business owner turned himself in to IFU personnel and was booked in the Jefferson Parish jail.



Statistically Speaking - Quarterly IFU Statistics

	2nd Qtr 2006	2nd Qtr 2007	YTD 2007
Cases Opened	35	48	156
Cases Closed	46	45	139
Arrests	51	37	118