



POLICE DEPARTMENT

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RISE IN CATALYTIC CONVERTER THEFTS

ATHENS, TENNESSEE- October 24, 2022- The City of Athens Police Department announces the significant rise in Catalytic Converter Theft reports. A Catalytic Converter is a critical component of your car's exhaust system and can cost up to \$2,000 to replace. Thieves target it because it contains expensive metals that have a street value of several hundred dollars and removal can take less than one minute. The Athens Police Department recommends individuals to be vigilant and observant when exiting your vehicle and if you see someone under a vehicle or hear a loud cutting noise, call 911 immediately from a safe area.

Theft prevention tips:

- Park in a garage or a well-lit area
- Park close to businesses or a nearby busy road
- Park near visible surveillance cameras in parking lots
- Install a catalytic converter protection device
- Install a car alarm to set off when it detects vibration

The Athens Police Department is actively and aggressively working on these cases. If you have any knowledge of these thefts, you can leave an anonymous tip on the City of Athens Website.

For more information, please contact the Athens Police Department at (423)744-2739 and ask for Lieutenant Blake Witt.

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