

### Larcenies from Work Vans

There are recent reports of work vans being targeted in Prince William County's Central District (Dale City, Lake Ridge areas). Entry occurs during the early morning hours. Locks are broken off or punched out, and the tools are stolen.

The following tips may help prevent you from becoming a victim of theft:

- **Remove tools from the van, if possible.**
- **Give your tools a makeover.** Paint them in neon colors or stripe them, and take pictures for identification. Thieves want tools they can sell and not be traced because of their unique look.
- **Engrave personal information on the tool.** It can be your business name, your name, etc. This also lowers the tools' resale value and increases the risk of arrest to the thief.
- **Remove batteries and chargers.**
- **Lock items in a secure cabinet.** Thieves have a short time to gather your tools. Make it more difficult for them.
- **Lock items with a security chain.** Use hardened steel security chains and padlocks to protect ladders and heavy-duty equipment.
- **Add exterior puck locks to your doors.** They are not convenient but they provide much better security than factory locks and are a visual deterrent.
- **Install an alarm system** because you cannot watch your work van 24/7. Some systems send alerts to your cell phone when doors are opened or glass is broken.
- **Add stickers or warning signs.** Let thieves know your tools and vehicle are protected by GPS trackers or an alarm. Thieves generally move on to another target if yours appears high risk.
- **Park in a way to prevent or deter thieves.** Park with sliding or rear doors against a wall or fence, in a well-lit area, preferably in view of a surveillance camera.

**REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY TO THE POLICE**

**Emergency: 911 - Non-Emergency: 703-792-6500**