

The Virgin Islands Consortium

VIPD Issues Alert on Rising Car Theft and Burglaries in St. Thomas and St. John

VIPD highlights a worrying increase in car thefts, especially targeting Kias and Hyundais, across the islands

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The V.I. Department is alerting the community of St. Thomas and St. John about a significant uptick in car thefts and burglaries, particularly targeting Kias and Hyundais.

According to the VIPD, the increase in such incidents is partly attributed to social media videos showing how these vehicles can be easily started without keys.

In response to this alarming trend, VIPD officers are urging residents to take extra precautions to protect their vehicles from theft. The department has provided a list of

safety tips for vehicle owners, including:

- Not leaving valuables in the vehicle.
- Ensuring that the vehicle is always locked.
- Avoiding the practice of leaving a spare key inside the car.
- Installing a loud, audible alarm system and anti-theft devices.
- Considering the addition of a tracking and immobilizer system to their vehicle.
- Staying alert and parking in well-lit areas.

St. Thomas-St. John Police Chief Steven Phillip expressed serious concern over this trend. "This is an extremely concerning trend and the public needs to know so they can be vigilant in protecting themselves and loved ones," he stated. Phillip also emphasized that the Chief's Office is actively collaborating with other law enforcement agencies to curb the rise in car thefts and prevent potential carjackings in the community.

The VIPD advises that if a car is stolen, the owner should immediately contact the police and provide as much information as possible. This includes the vehicle's year, make, model, color, license plate number, and, if available, the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN).

The department is also seeking the public's assistance in reporting any information related to these burglaries. The VIPD's alert aims to increase awareness among residents and encourage proactive measures to secure vehicles and reduce the risk of theft.