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**Sheriff Lou Vallario**  
**Garfield County, Colorado**

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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For Immediate Release

Date: October 23, 2017

Time: 8:50 AM

Title: Property Theft from Vehicles Increases with Hunting Season

**IMPORTANT:** Please direct any media requests to the contact above. Do not contact the Garfield County Emergency Communications Center or Patrol staff for media requests.

GARFIELD COUNTY, Colo. –

There has been a recent increase in the number of vehicle break-ins and theft of personal property from parked vehicles in Garfield County.

This has been an ongoing problem in the park and ride lots as well as residential areas and now, with hunting season in full swing, vehicle break-ins in more remote areas are occurring.

If you are a day hiker, a hunter or just an outdoor enthusiast who may have occasion to leave your vehicle alongside one of our back country roads or in a remote campsite, you need to take precautions and be aware.

Do not leave any valuables in plain sight; this is an open invitation to a “would be” thief. Items of interest may include wallets, cell phones, tools, cameras, specialty equipment or gear as well as firearms, ammunition and so forth.

Locking your vehicle is a good precaution but understand. In a remote area, a thief can break a window and enter your vehicle with very little effort or expertise.

The best practice is to leave un-needed items at home or be prepared to carry your valuables with you, it only takes a few minutes to enter a vehicle and remove your property.

There is an element of risk to the thief when he enters a vehicle if we can eliminate the potential reward by protecting our valuables we can make this crime less appealing to the perpetrator and ultimately lower its rate of occurrence.

**Additional information will be released as it becomes available.**

*The mission of the Garfield County Sheriff's Office is to provide solutions for the people through professional, ethical and compassionate conduct.*

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