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H.E.A.T. OFFERS TIPS TO KEEP MICHIGAN DRIVERS FROM BECOMING VICTIMS OF AUTO THEFT THIS SUMMER *AS TEMPERATURES INCREASE, SO TOO DO OPPORTUNITIES FOR THIEVES*

LIVONIA, Mich. (July 12, 2010) – Now in its 25th year of combating auto theft-related crimes in Michigan, H.E.A.T. (Help Eliminate Auto Thefts) is once again warning Michigan drivers to stay alert this summer, as warm weather can lead to increased opportunities for thieves.

“As summer gets underway, drivers often carelessly give thieves easy access to personal property and vehicles,” said Terri Miller, director of H.E.A.T. “Auto theft rates are highest in summer months, making it even more important to stay alert and practice auto theft prevention, whether you’re at home or on vacation.”

“The Auto Theft Prevention Authority reports that vehicle thefts in Michigan are at their highest in July and August,” stated Detective Adam Henderson of the Michigan State Police. “Michigan drivers need to be educated, alert and take an active role in protecting themselves and their property.”

H.E.A.T. is happy to provide drivers with the following tips for keeping cars and belongings safe during the months of warm weather ahead:

- **Lock and Load** – Always lock your car when your vehicle is unattended, and remember to set alarms or other anti-theft devices every time you get out. Close windows tightly, and don’t forget the sunroof.
- **Watch Those Wheels** – Thieves are targeting tires and rims. Invest in locking lug nuts and park in your garage whenever possible.
- **Out of Sight** – Keep all personal belongings, including GPS systems, iPods, cell phones and other valuables, out of sight.
- **Kill-Switch** – Protect your vehicle from being started by a thief by having a mechanic install a concealed kill-switch.
- **Double Duty** – Add a second layer of protection to your vehicle by using a steering wheel locking device, a steering column protector or an alarm with a visible indicator.
- **Keep Watch And Report Crime**– Help your neighborhood by noting and reporting any suspicious activity and writing down descriptions, license plate numbers and other helpful information. If you know anything about auto theft, chop shops, carjacking or insurance fraud, report it day or night to your local police department and H.E.A.T.’s 24/7 confidential tip-reward line, 1-800-242-HEAT or online at 1800242HEAT.com.

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About H.E.A.T.

H.E.A.T. works with Michigan law enforcement agencies to follow-up on tips. Tipsters are awarded up to \$1,000 if the tip leads to the arrest and prosecution of a suspected car thief or a person suspected of auto theft-related insurance fraud. Rewards of up to \$10,000 are issued if a tip results in the arrest and binding over for trial of a suspected theft ring or chop shop operators. H.E.A.T. rewards up to \$2,000 for information leading to the issuance of a warrant for a carjacking suspect.

The H.E.A.T. tip line is monitored by the Michigan State Police and funded by Michigan's auto insurance companies.

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Editor's Note: To schedule an interview with Terri Miller, H.E.A.T. director, contact Kim Tassie at 248.519.1509 or ktassie@lambert-edwards.com