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Joe Moylan, PIO
Weld County Sheriff's Office
(970) 400-2809, Desk
(970) 381-6513, Cell
jmoylan@weldgov.com

Sheriff's Office warning residents about rash of wheel, rim, tire thefts

The Weld County Sheriff's Office is warning the public about a recent rash of auto thefts in which the suspects removed wheels, rims and tires before dumping the vehicles in remote locations.

There have been at least six reports of abandoned vehicles dating back to Aug. 26. Of those, five of the vehicles were reported stolen out of other jurisdictions. The vehicles wheels, rims and tires were removed before they were dumped in Weld County. One vehicle was stolen from a local car dealership.

Although most of the vehicles were stolen out of other jurisdictions, including Denver, Loveland and Aurora, the sheriff's office would like to make the public aware of the uptick in these types of thefts. Be wary of your surroundings and call 911 if you observe suspicious activity.

One preventative measure residents can take to protect their wheels, rims and tires is to purchase wheel locks, which cost \$20 to \$60 for a set and are available at any auto parts store. Residents in the market for new wheels, rims or tires should be wary of Craigslist deals that seem too good to be true. Do a little vetting to ensure you're not purchasing stolen property.

Anyone with information regarding this or any other crime is asked to call the Weld County Sheriff's Office at (970) 356-4015 or Northern Colorado Crime Stoppers at **1-800-222-TIPS (8477)**. **Tips can also be submitted through the Crime Stoppers website at www.crimeshurt.com. Those submitting tips through Crime Stoppers that lead to the arrest and filing of charges on a suspect(s) may be eligible for a cash reward.**

Steve Reams – Sheriff