

# **CRIME ALERT from UMKC Police**

March 15, 2022

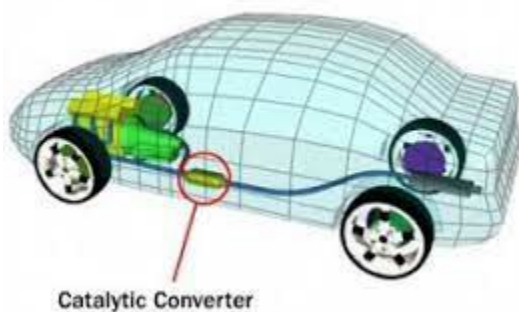
## **STATEMENT ON CRIMINAL ACTIVITY**

The University of Missouri–Kansas City Police Department has noticed a rise in the theft of catalytic converters from vehicle exhaust systems. So far this year, we have recorded eight thefts and two attempted thefts. Thieves usually slide under a vehicle with a power saw and cut the converter off in a matter of minutes.

Toyota Priuses, Honda CR-V and SUVs are the most common vehicle type being targeted right now, although several have been stolen from various other makes and models.

## **WHY CATALYTIC CONVERTERS ARE STOLEN**

The reason is the value of the metals used in the manufacturing of the catalytic converters. Catalytic converters contain platinum, rhodium, and palladium. The metals are expensive, and thieves sell the converters to scrap yards for several hundred dollars per piece.



## **HOW TO KNOW YOUR CONVERTER HAS BEEN REMOVED**

You'll notice a loud rumbling or roaring sound as soon as you turn on the engine if your catalytic converter is missing. This gets louder when you hit the gas. The exhaust is not working properly, so the vehicle also drives rougher than usual, often sputtering as you change speed. Go to the back of the car and look underneath. The catalytic converter is a round canister that connects two pieces of piping in the exhaust. You will see a gaping space in the middle of your exhaust if the converter is missing, and you will likely see signs of the piping being cut away.

## **CATALYTIC CONVERTER THEFT PREVENTION**

Security devices are available that attach to the converter, making it harder to steal. Examples of these devices are metal shields over the converter, cables surrounding the converter, and metal brackets covering the converter. Having the converter welded to the car frame also makes it more difficult to remove. If you have a security system on your car, calibrate it so vibration sets it off. This ensures the alarm activates if a thief tries to saw off the converter. Engrave your VIN number onto your catalytic converter to make it easier to identify in case it does get stolen.



**Please contact the UMKCPD at 816-235-1515 if you suspect someone is attempting to steal a vehicle's catalytic converter or observe any suspicious activity in the parking lots or anywhere on campus.**

Crime prevention tips, as well as informational workshops, may be obtained by contacting the crime prevention office of the UMKC Police Department at 816-235-1515, or visiting the UMKC Police website: <https://www.umkc.edu/police/>