Larcenies from Work Vans

There have been recent reports of work vans being targeted in Prince William County. Entry is made into the vehicles by punching the sliding door- or rear door-lock. Miscellaneous high-dollar tools were taken. These incidents are occurring late at night or during the early morning hours.

The following tips may help prevent you from becoming a victim of theft:

- **Remove tools from the van**, if possible.

- **Give your tools a makeover.** Paint it a neon color, stripes, etc. and take a picture of it if needed in the future. Thieves want to have tools they can sell and not be traced because of their unique look.

- **Engrave personal information on the tool.** It can be your business name, your name, etc. This also lowers the tools’ resale value and increases the risk of arrest to the thief.

- **Remove batteries and chargers.**

- **Lock them in a secure cabinet.** Thieves have a short time to gather your tools. Make it more difficult for them.

- **Lock items up with a security chain.** Use hardened steel security chain and padlocks to protect ladders, and heavy-duty equipment.

- **Add Exterior puck locks to your doors.** They aren’t convenient but provide much better security than factory locks and is a visual deterrent.

- **Install an alarm system** because you can’t watch your van 24/7. There are systems that send alerts to your cell phone when doors are opened, glass breakage etc.

- **Add stickers or warning signs.** Let thieves know your tools and vehicle are protected by GPS trackers, alarm, etc. Thieves generally move on to another target if yours appears high risk.