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****PRESS RELEASE****WALLA WALLA POLICE DEPT**** Sharp Increase in Vehicle Thefts

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The police department has taken reports on 12 motor vehicle thefts during the month of September, including four reported within seven hours on September 30th. There were five vehicle thefts reported during September, 2013.

In six of the thefts, the keys had been left in the vehicles. To date, two of the vehicles have been recovered—a Suburban found burned in Umatilla County, and a Mazda recovered undamaged in Walla Walla.

The police department strongly encourages motorists to lock their vehicles and not leave any valuables in view.

One arrest has been made connected to one of these thefts.

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