

Vehicle GPS thefts on rise in Toronto

by UPI

TORONTO -- Toronto police warned that thieves in the city are following a North American trend of damaging vehicles to steal GPS navigation systems, local media said. The number of smash-and-grabs of the devices has reached the point where police told one victim Saturday night to call back to make a report the next day, the Toronto Star reported. No specific statistics on GPS thefts were available on Sunday, the report said. Theft victim Colin Bower told the newspaper he thinks he was robbed by a specialized group of thieves, as they took only his 2-month-old navigation system and ignored his stereo and other items. He acknowledged he hadn't followed the manufacturer's instructions and recorded a separate registration number, which denies thieves the option of burning out the registered serial number in the software. Police Constable Norman Smart told the Star apart from following security instructions with the GPS units, drivers should simply remove them and anything else of value from their vehicles, as "anything they can see is gone."

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