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Louisiana Automobile Theft and Insurance Fraud Prevention Authority Announces 2014 Conference LATIFPA Promoting Contest for Teen Drivers and new Website

The Louisiana Department of Insurance (LDI), along with the Louisiana Automobile Theft and Insurance Fraud Prevention Authority (LATIFPA), announced today that registration for the 2014 Conference on Insurance Fraud and Auto Theft is now underway. The conference will be held on Wednesday, October 15 and will feature presentations on combatting vehicle theft, as well as panel discussions on health care fraud, investigating insurance fraud and insurance fraud prosecution.

According to the most recent Uniform Crime Reporting data from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the number of auto thefts statewide dropped from 9,113 vehicles stolen in 2011 to 7,881 vehicles stolen in 2012, representing a decrease of 13.5 percent. The decline in the number of reported auto thefts improved Louisiana's national ranking from 26th in 2011 to 30th in 2012 in the rate of vehicles stolen. Over the five-year period from 2007 through 2012, the number of auto thefts in Louisiana has declined by 48 percent. Nationally, auto thefts dropped by 34 percent over the same time period.

"While the declining number of auto thefts is encouraging, it certainly does not mean we can become lax when it comes to taking preventative measures," said Insurance Commissioner Jim Donelon. "One particular crime to be on the lookout for is vehicle break-ins. Simple steps such as locking your car and not keeping any valuables in your vehicle can help you avoid becoming a victim."

Established by the Louisiana Legislature during the 2004 Regular Session, the LATIFPA is a public agency housed within the Department of Insurance with the purpose of combatting motor vehicle theft, insurance fraud, and other criminal acts. Through partnerships with local law enforcement agencies, public awareness campaigns and educational outreach initiatives, the LDI and the LATIFPA work towards reducing the number of fraudulent insurance claims and vehicle thefts.

For more information on the conference, please visit the Louisiana Department of Insurance website at www.lidi.la.gov to obtain a copy of the registration form and agenda. Interested parties may also contact the LDI at (225) 342-0819 for additional information. Continuing education credits will be available for insurance producers, adjusters and attorneys who attend the event.

LATIFPA Reaches out to Teen Drivers Through Theft Prevention Video Contest and Website

The Louisiana Department of Insurance (LDI) and the Louisiana Automobile Theft and Insurance Fraud Prevention Authority (LATIFPA) are also encouraging teen drivers to “Park Smart” with the launch of a new high school video competition this upcoming school semester. The competition, “Protect My Ride: Louisiana,” is open to all high schools in the state in an effort to educate the general public, specifically teen drivers, on the importance of driving safety and auto theft prevention.

High School students will be charged with scripting, filming and producing a 30-second video promoting auto theft prevention. Videos can be a public service announcement, music video, animation, documentary or any other appropriate style or format. Schools interested in participating in the competition must have a school representative register with the LATIFPA by October 1, 2014.

Video submissions are due no later than December 15, 2014. The winning video will be recognized and featured on the Louisiana Department of Insurance website and may also be broadcast in the television market of the winning school. For a complete list of rules and guidelines, please [click here](#) or email the LATIFPA Director Jeffrey Zewe at jzewe@ldi.la.gov.

In addition to the “Protect My Ride Louisiana” video competition, the LATIFPA has also launched an educational website on vehicle theft prevention. The interactive site aims to raise the awareness of vehicle theft amongst high school students in Louisiana and provide them with the resources to avoid becoming a victim of auto theft. Visitors to the new “Park Smart” website will also have a chance to test their skills by taking a quiz on auto theft prevention. To access the site and to learn more about the LATIFPA, please visit www.parksmartlouisiana.org.

About the Louisiana Department of Insurance: *The Louisiana Department of Insurance works to improve competition in the state’s insurance market while assisting individuals and businesses with the information and resources they need to be informed consumers of insurance. As a regulator, the LDI enforces the laws that provide a fair and stable marketplace and makes certain that insurers comply with the laws in place to protect policyholders. You can contact the LDI by calling 1-800-259-5300 or visiting www.ldi.la.gov.*