

Sporty Cars – Camaro, Mustang, Challenger – Are Recent Favorites Among Car Thieves

Think of it as a “good news, bad news” situation.

The good news is that another national group has statistics proving the popularity of the Ford Mustang, Dodge Challenger and the Chevy Camaro with a specific demographic.

The bad news is that demographic is car thieves.

The National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) last week released its catalog of latest vehicle theft reports, this one on the “Sporty” classification.

The report is based on National Crime Information Center (NCIC) vehicle theft records for the period Jan. 1, 2009, through Dec. 31, 2012, and limited to 2010, 2011 and 2012 model-year vehicles.

The NICB report has Sporty vehicles broken down into three classes – premium, mid-sized and compact – and each class contains several makes and models.

During this reporting period, 3,780 Sporty vehicles were reported stolen in the United States. By far, the mid-sized class had the most theft activity with 3,271 thefts, or 87 percent of the Sporty total.

Solar Panels Head For GM’s Toledo Plant Rooftop

GM’s 1.8-megawatt rooftop solar array at its Toledo Transmission plant in Ohio will be completed sometime this month.

The project, which will generate nearly 3 percent of the plant’s overall electricity consumption, will be the largest rooftop array in Ohio, said GM spokesperson Sharon Basel.

The energy produced will be enough to power 200 homes in the United States.

“Having 21,000 solar panels on Toledo’s roof is a great visual representation of our commitment to renewable energy,” said Rob Threlkeld, GM manager of Renewable Energy. “It proves to our employees and the people who live in and around Toledo that clean energy plays a significant role in the building of our vehicles.”

Separately, GM was also recognized by the Solar Energy Industries Association, or SEIA, as a “Solar Champion” at its annual awards luncheon at Solar Power International 2013 in Chicago, Basel said. The award recognizes companies that significantly impact establishment of a strong solar industry in America.

“General Motors is already recognized as a worldwide leader in everything from innovation to corporate responsibility. Now, it is helping to lead the way in the use of clean, affordable solar energy nationwide,” said SEIA President and CEO Rhone Resch.

“We’re especially pleased with the 1.8 MW array in Toledo. This will be a boost to the company and protect our environment.”

By the end of 2013, GM will have more than 40 megawatts of solar energy installed at its facilities globally, with two of the five largest rooftop solar arrays in the world located at its Opel Rüsselsheim facility in Germany and its Zaragoza Assembly plant in Spain, Basel said.

“Rolling more solar into our manufacturing process is not only good for the planet, but it provides a boon for our bottom line, as well,” said Threlkeld, referring to avoided energy costs.

Additionally, nine GM facilities have solar EV charging canopies on their grounds that employees and visitors can use to charge electric vehicles, Basel said.

Within that class, the Chevrolet Camaro had the most theft reports (1,509), followed by the Ford Mustang (980) and the Dodge Challenger (782). Those three vehicles had, by far, the highest theft figures of the entire report.

Rounding out the top five most-stolen Sporty vehicles were the Porsche Panamera (103) and the Audi A5/S5 (101).

The next five most-stolen Sporty vehicles were:

- Chevrolet Corvette – premium class – 69 thefts;
- Nissan 370Z – compact class – 47 thefts;
- BMW 6 Series – premium class – 45 thefts;
- Porsche 911 – premium class – 24 thefts;

• Volkswagen Eos – compact class – 23 thefts.

The state where the most Sporty thefts occurred was California (764), followed by Florida (443), Texas (381), Georgia (257) and Michigan (187).

When reviewed by Core-Based Statistical Areas (CBSA), Sporty thefts were most reported from the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana, Calif., area (291).

Next was the Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, Ga., area (226), followed by Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Pompano Beach, Fla., area (208).

The New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, N.Y.-N.J.-Pa. area (198) and the Detroit-Warren-Livonia, area (179) round out the top five CBSAs.

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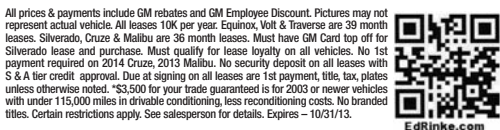
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