

Breakfast Television Segment Transcript: Tips to help prevent potential car theft

Announcer: Learn tips and information on how your car insurance can protect you in case of car theft.

Sid: Welcome back to breakfast television Sid Seixeiro here with you 743 on a monday. So according to the Financial post, Ontario's car theft rates have exponentially increased by 86% in the last few years, leaving car owners deeply worried. There are many ways you can protect yourself from the impact of car theft. There are things you can do. Here to tell us more is VP of TD Insurance Fraud Farrukh Hussein.

Sid: Farrukh Good morning. Welcome to the show.

Farrukh: Morning, Sid. How are you?

Sid: I'm good. I'm good. Boy, is this in the news right now and a lot of people are worried about it. Just generally, how would you describe car theft right now in this province and how it's affecting people?

Farrukh: You know? Sid You already mentioned car thefts are up significantly. It's a real issue and criminals are stealing these vehicles to make money by either exporting them for sale or they're also fraudulently changing the identity of the car and selling them domestically to unsuspecting Canadians. This is a national issue. However, Ontario is the hardest hit province. In the first half of 2023, car thefts in Ontario were up 31% of a record high that was already hit in 2022. So car thefts can happen to anyone at any time. However, there are some precautions you can take to protect your car against theft and also having the right insurance policy will ensure that you reduce and or eliminate any financial impact in the unfortunate event your car is stolen.

Sid: Okay, So let's let's talk about the ways to minimize the impact here, because it's it'll change your life like that. And obviously it's a pretty major thing. Our insurance policy. How does that protect you first?

Farrukh: First, you know, it's really important for you to understand what you're covered for right now in your policy. So contact your insurance and figure that out. Because if you opt in for one of the following three optional coverages, be it comprehensive, be it specified perils or all perils, you will have protection against auto theft. And depending on which coverage you have, you may also be covered for rental cars if your car is stolen. So really important to figure out what you're covered for in your existing coverage. And if you need more information to understand how optional coverages can protect you, you can contact TD Insurance or visit us at TD Insurance dot com.

Sid: So what are the other ways in which people can protect themselves and like, I know you're going to go through a bunch of stuff that some people might think are obvious, but you would be stunned at how often these normal things do not happen in people's daily lives. Please, Farrukh, go down the list.

Farrukh: Yeah, there's actually a lot you can do.

Sid: Seriously.

Farrukh: Some of the basics out. Lock your car. Triple check that it's locked. Never keep your car running unattended.

Sid: Can you say that one again please?

Farrukh: Yeah, and triple check that it's locked properly.

Sid: Yeah. And leave your car unattended while it's running. Thing. Yeah. I can't believe we have to say that out loud with humans watching the show. But we do, because sometimes it happens. Please continue.

Farrukh: If you have a garage, please park your car in the garage. Also consider, you know, always keeping the exterior of your home lit. So if there are any uninvited visitors, they're seen. You might also consider installing cameras on the exterior of your home, which can act as a deterrent.

Sid: That we're going to.

Farrukh: Do. Now, on top of those basics, though, it's if you have a professionally installed anti-theft tracking device now, that will track your car real time if it's ever stolen. So what that does is it acts as a deterrent for criminals. But even more importantly, if it's stolen, it drastically increases the chances of recovery. If you're a TD insurance customer in Ontario with a professionally installed anti-theft tracking device, you may be eligible for a 15% discount on your theft related coverage.

Sid: So we got about 90 seconds left. Your car has been stolen. It happened to you. It's never happened before. What do you do?

Farrukh: First thing, contact your local police station. File a report, jot their report number down, because the next thing you have to do is contact your insurer, start a claim where are you going to have to give the police report number. And if your insurance customer, you can immediately start your claim on the TD insurance app, where you can track the progress of your claim easily and conveniently right on your phone.

Sid: Where can we get more info online?

Farrukh: For more tips on how to protect your car, visit us at TD insurance dot com forward slash anti-theft.

Sid: Awesome Farrukh. Good to see you. They should have told you this before we came up. We're now going to throw to celebrations. Okay. It was an interesting moment because my voice is going to go high pitched when we're celebrating you in the room may or may not join me. You are welcome to join me.

Farrukh: I'm going to join it.

Sid: I'm definitely going, as always. But I really shouldn't have said anything. It's better if you didn't know what I'm asking, right? We're celebrating.

Farrukh: Yeah. Let's go.

Sid: TD. Birthday celebrations. Maybe Ted picks. I'm still pushing for it. I never get it. I know it's your birthday today,

Farrukh: but last night

Sid: Happy birthday Farrukh! Look at this. Happy 25th.