



## SOUTH LAKE TAHOE POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Officer Mark Hounsell  
Phone: 530-542-6100  
Fax: 530-542-6146  
Address: 1352 Johnson Blvd. South Lake Tahoe, Ca. 96150

### **Bicycle Theft Awareness**

**South Lake Tahoe, CA (April 1, 2015)** - Over the past week, SLTPD has responded to two reports of high end bicycles being stolen off bicycle racks on the back of parked vehicles in public parking lots. The crimes have occurred during both day and nighttime hours. At this time, it is unknown if the suspect(s) in each case are the same, however each of the victims had smaller, thinner bicycle locks securing the bikes to the racks. The suspect(s) in these cases were able to easily cut through the cables and steal the bikes.

As we are coming into spring and summer seasons, SLTPD would like to remind everyone to use a heavier grade lock to secure their bikes whenever left unattended and to make sure their bikes are locked at all times when left unattended.

#### **Best Tips for Theft Prevention**

- Always lock your bike's frame and wheels with a high-quality, modern U-lock (with a disc/flat key)
- Remove all detachable items like lights, bags and quick release parts and take them with you
- Lock to a bike rack, or firmly affixed (bolts covered in concrete) parking meter or sign pole – these are the most secure places
- See images below for locking depictions.



**Method 1** locks the front wheel and frame. Use a cable to secure the rear wheel.

**Method 2** locks the quick release front wheel alongside the frame and rear wheel.



Shows bike with u-lock securing rear wheel and cable securing front wheel.

## More Tips

- Record your bike's serial number. Take a photo of you and your unlocked bike. Keep the receipt. All will help you identify the bike.
- Always lock your bike, even if you're just leaving it for a moment
- Always lock through the frame and a wheel. Add a cable, cable lock, or second U-lock to lock the second wheel. See diagrams
- Buy the most expensive lock you can afford. U-locks are strong and better ones come with theft warranties. Only buy a U-lock with a flat or disc key. Cylindrical keyed locks are more easily picked. See diagram about keys to the right.
- Beware of locking to "sucker poles" that are loosely bolted down and can easily be removed.
- Avoid locking to private property. Store your bike inside if space is available.
- Lock your bike when keeping it in a garage or on a porch.
- Learn about the lock manufacturer's warranty and product replacement policy.