



Vehicle Theft Trends

LOUISIANA STATE POLICE, INV. JASON GAGLIANO

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- ▶ TikTok “Kia Boyz Challenge”
 - ▶ Counterfeit Public Vehicle Identification Number (P-VIN). Using a Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) outside the manufacturer build specifications to conceal an automobiles' true identity.

TikTok “Kia Boyz Challenge”

- ▶ The so-called "KIA challenge" was started in the US city of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, by a **gang of teenage thieves known as the "KIA Boyz."** In 2021, the teen thieves began posting instructional videos showing viewers how to bypass the vehicle's security system and hotwire the cars using just a screwdriver and a USB cable. Feb 15, 2023.
- ▶ The video posted on TikTok on July 12, 2022, where the author uses a USB connector on a naked key slot and successfully hotwires a car. This vulnerability exists on a type of ignition switch used in many Kia/Hyundai cars sold until 2021, which are not equipped with an immobilizer system.

Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kia_Challenge#:~:text=from%20involved%20companies-Background,equipped%20with%20an%20immobilizer%20system.

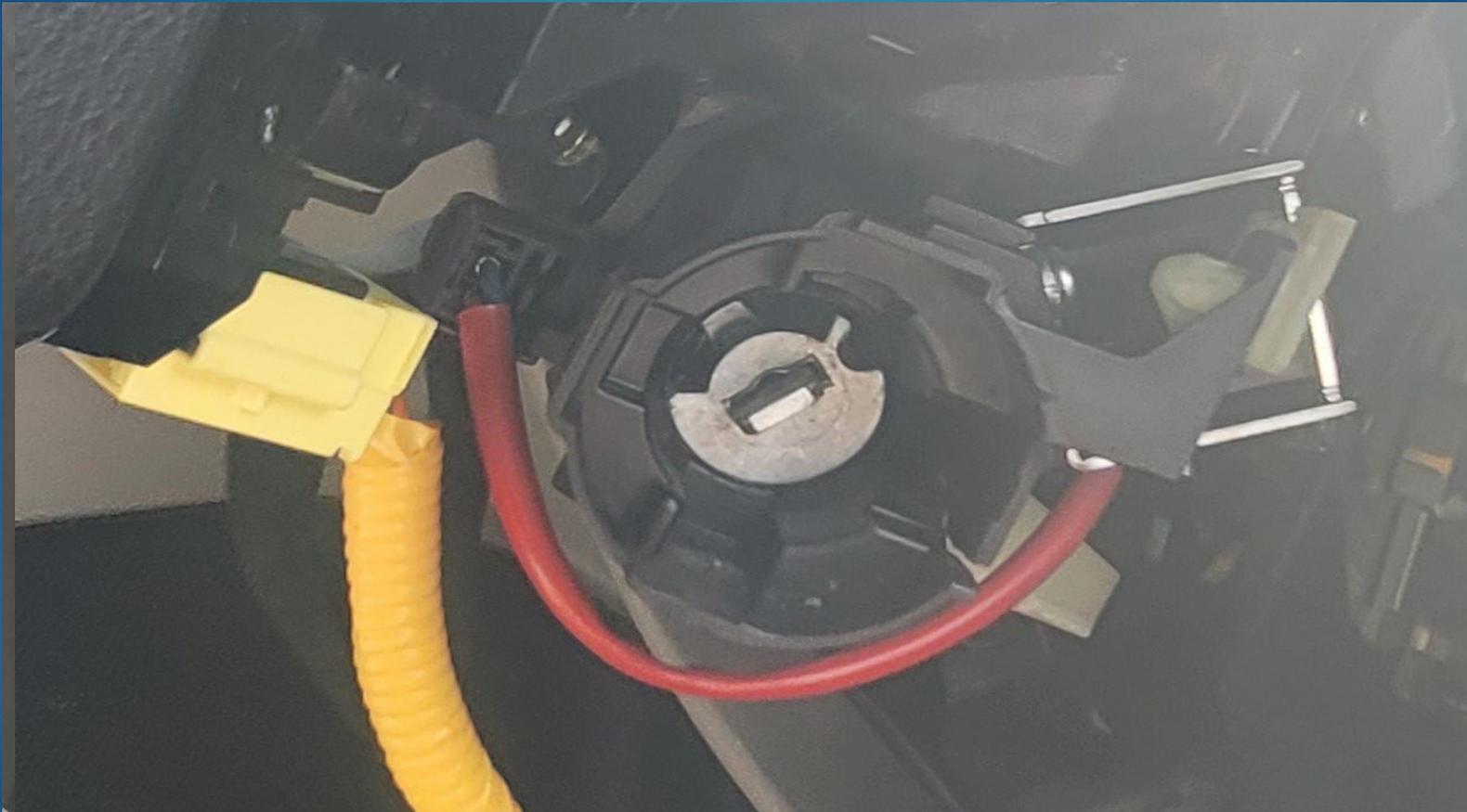
What occurs when applying the USB hack to a Kia or Hyundai?

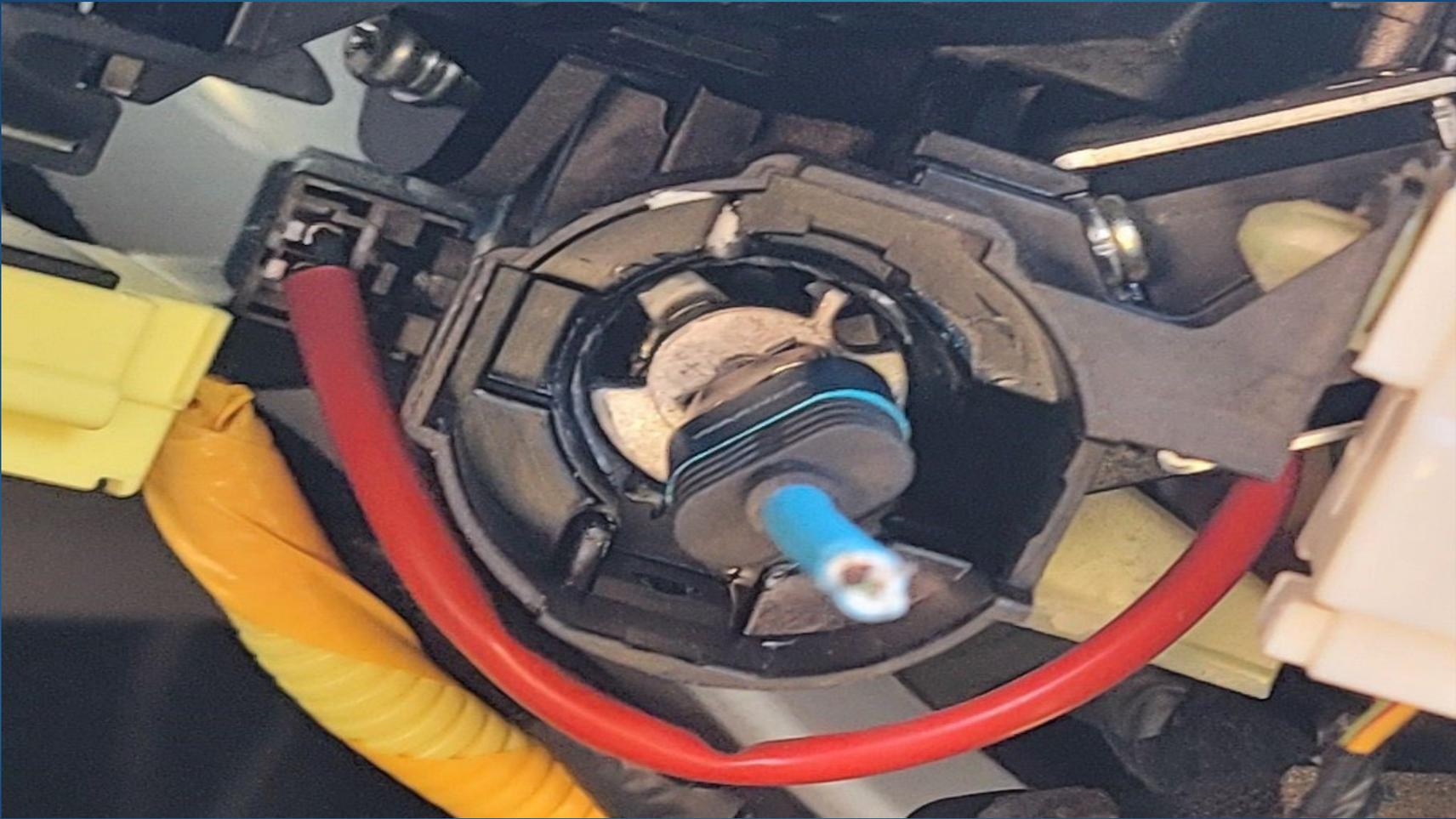
- ▶ The suspect entered the vehicle through an open door or forced entry into the automobile by smashing out one of the passenger windows.
- ▶ Once inside, the steering column was attached.
- ▶ The bottom portion of the plastic covering concealing the internal wiring of the column is ripped off. This exposes the bottom half of the column and ignition leaves the top in place.
- ▶ A screwdriver or pry bar was shoved in the vehicle's key slot or above the ignition cylinder. Downward force applied, and the plastic steering column crumbled.

What occurs when applying the USB hack to a Kia or Hyundai?

- ▶ The ignition and supporting wiring are pushed aside, exposing the internal mechanism responsible for starting the vehicle.
- ▶ The trick with the "USB hack" is just another tool the criminal uses to start the vehicle. Once the "Mechanism" is exposed, the USB is then pushed onto the narrow metal shaft providing better service area for the thief to start the vehicle.
- ▶ <https://youtu.be/CqR4zvr0ecY?t=6>









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NATIONAL INSURANCE CRIME BUREAU

KIA BOYS CHALLENGE SNAPSHOT

(U) This snapshot provides information and predictions for Louisiana regarding the Kia Boys Challenge and is meant to aid law enforcement in investigations.

(U//FOUO) During the summer of 2022, a group referring to themselves as the “Kia Boys” reportedly based in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, posted a TikTok video explaining how to exploit a flaw in certain Kia and Hyundai models making them easy to steal. Although the original video has been removed from TikTok, Kia and Hyundai thefts in the United States continue to rise. Compared to the same time frame in 2021, across Louisiana in 2022, Kia thefts are up by 117% and Hyundai thefts are up by 83%.

(U//FOUO) The video highlighted a flaw in certain 2011—2021 Kia and 2015—2021 Hyundai models that are not equipped with anti-theft alarm systems and engine immobilizers. Teenagers have been referring to the video as a challenge and posting videos online after stealing vehicles utilizing this method. Due to the media attention this trend has recently been given, it is likely Kia and Hyundai thefts will continue to rise in Louisiana during 2023.

(U//FOUO) Theft Tradecrafts:

- (U//FOUO) Gain entry into the vehicle, which is typically accomplished by breaking a window.
- (U//FOUO) Remove the plastic shroud from steering column. This is often completed without tools, simply by applying brute force to the plastic shroud and breaking it off. On some vehicles, the component may not fully break off and will hang below the steering column.
- (U//FOUO) Remove the ignition cylinder from the vehicle. Doing so allows the internal mechanism to be accessed, allowing the vehicle to be manually started. This will require the use of a screwdriver, which is the only tool required for these thefts.
- (U//FOUO) Utilize an object that fits over the internal starting mechanism (typically a USB drive). Turn the mechanism to start the vehicle similar to starting a vehicle with a key.

ANALYST NOTE: The lack of an engine immobilizer is what makes these vehicles prime targets because there is not a security chip in the vehicle's key that the engine is checking for prior to starting.

(U//FOUO) Photo of the Internal Starting Mechanism on a Defeated Kia



IMAGE CREDIT: LOUISIANA STATE POLICE INSURANCE FRAUD & AUTO THEFT UNIT

(U) For more information or to report similar events, contact the National Insurance Crime Bureau at IntelligenceandAnalytics@nicb.org and LA-SAFE at LAFusion.Center@la.gov.

UNCLASSIFIED//LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE

(U//LES) Suspicious Activities Possibly Related to the Kia Boys Challenge:

- (U//LES) Kia and Hyundai vehicles abandoned in random areas
- (U//LES) Kia and Hyundai vehicles with the drive shaft removed that can be seen from window
- (U//LES) Suspicious persons being reported walking around parking lots or streets carrying a number of USB cables
- (U//LES) Reckless joyriding in Kia and Hyundai vehicles

(U//LES) Possible Investigative Resources for Kia and Hyundai Thefts.

- (U) Subjects participating in this challenge have posted videos of themselves joy riding with the hashtag “KiaBoys.”
- (U//LES) Some models may have infotainment systems that can be forensically downloaded that could provide information on connected devices and locations.

LA-SAFE SINS: LA-11050, LA-14040, LA-27020

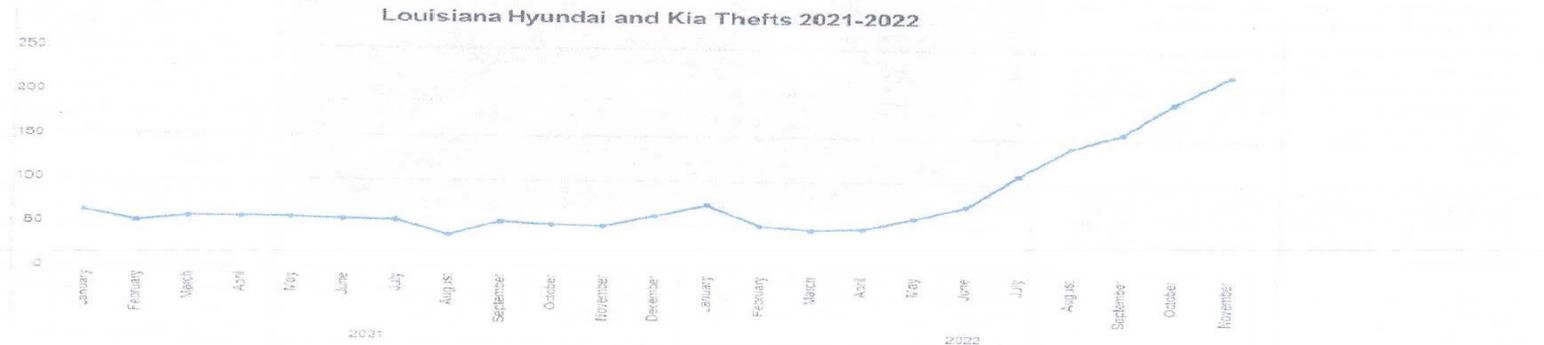
STATISTICAL ANALYSIS OF KIA AND HYUNDAI THEFTS IN LOUISIANA

(U//FOUO) The graph below shows a timeline of Kia and Hyundai thefts reported on a monthly basis from January 2021 through November 2022. During the summer of 2022, the chart begins to show a significant increase in the number of Kia and Hyundai thefts in Louisiana that has continued to grow. This chart was compiled using vehicle thefts reported to the National Crime Information Center in Louisiana between January 1, 2021, and November 30, 2022. Kia and Hyundai vehicles were identified in NCIC by decoding the 17-character VINs and using the vehicle make and model codes listed in the data. The sharp increase in thefts can most likely be attributed to individuals learning how to defeat the vehicles theft mechanism using methods depicted in the Kia Boys video, originally posted to TikTok.

(U//FOUO) The chart on the right shows the eight parishes in Louisiana that reported the most Kia and Hyundai thefts between January and November 2022. Additionally, it shows this trend has seen an uptick across various areas of the state.

(U//FOUO) Top 8 Parishes with Kia and Hyundai Theft

Parish:	Number of 2021 Thefts: (Jan—Nov 2021)	Number of 2022 Thefts: (Jan—Nov 2022)	Percent Increase from 2021—2022:
Orleans	208	698	236%
East Baton Rouge	76	111	46%
Jefferson	52	83	60%
Caddo	51	51	0%
Lafayette	32	32	0%
Calcasieu	17	22	29%
Bossier	10	21	110%
Ouachita	13	16	23%



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Counterfeit Public Vehicle Identification Number (P-VIN)

Summary

- ▶ The Louisiana State Police Insurance Fraud/Auto Theft Unit New Orleans Field Office (LSP-IFAT-NFO) has experienced an influx of counterfeit/cloned vehicles in the New Orleans Metro area. The LSP, New Orleans Police Department (NOPD), and the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office (JPSO) have recovered multiple stolen vehicles with various measures taken to mask their true identity. This includes:
- ▶ Counterfeit Federal Safety Certification labels (door stickers) depicting the assumed Vehicle Identification number (VIN).
- ▶ Counterfeit Public Vehicle Identification Number (P-VIN) plates/labels depicting the assumed VIN.

Summary

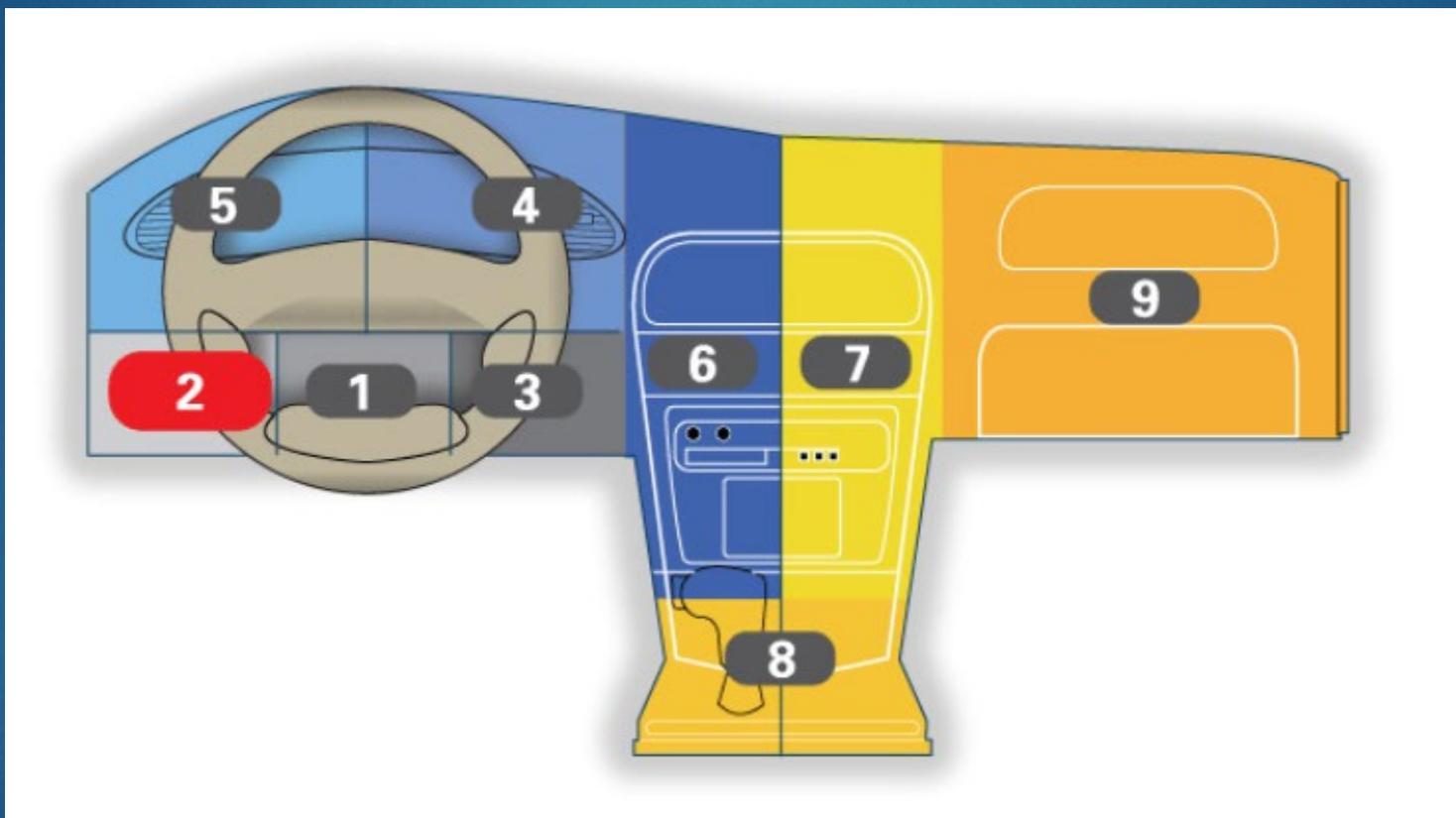
- ▶ Electronic modules plugged into the vehicle's On-Board Diagnostic II (OBD II) computer/data port display the assumed VIN when connected to a reader device for maintenance or service work.
- ▶ Vehicles equipped with OnStar system/navigation or similar GPS devices are disabled via disconnecting the cable leading to the antenna port on the OnStar's hard drive.
- ▶ Investigators have recovered multiple high-dollar vehicles, including 2018/2019 Cadillac Escalades, GMC Yukon's, and Chevrolet Tahoe's. These vehicles are often stolen via fraud.
- ▶ The suspect(s) rents the automobile from a business such as Hertz, Enterprise, and Avis/Budget/Dollar via a fictitious or stolen identity.
- ▶ What is an OBDII Port?

OBDII

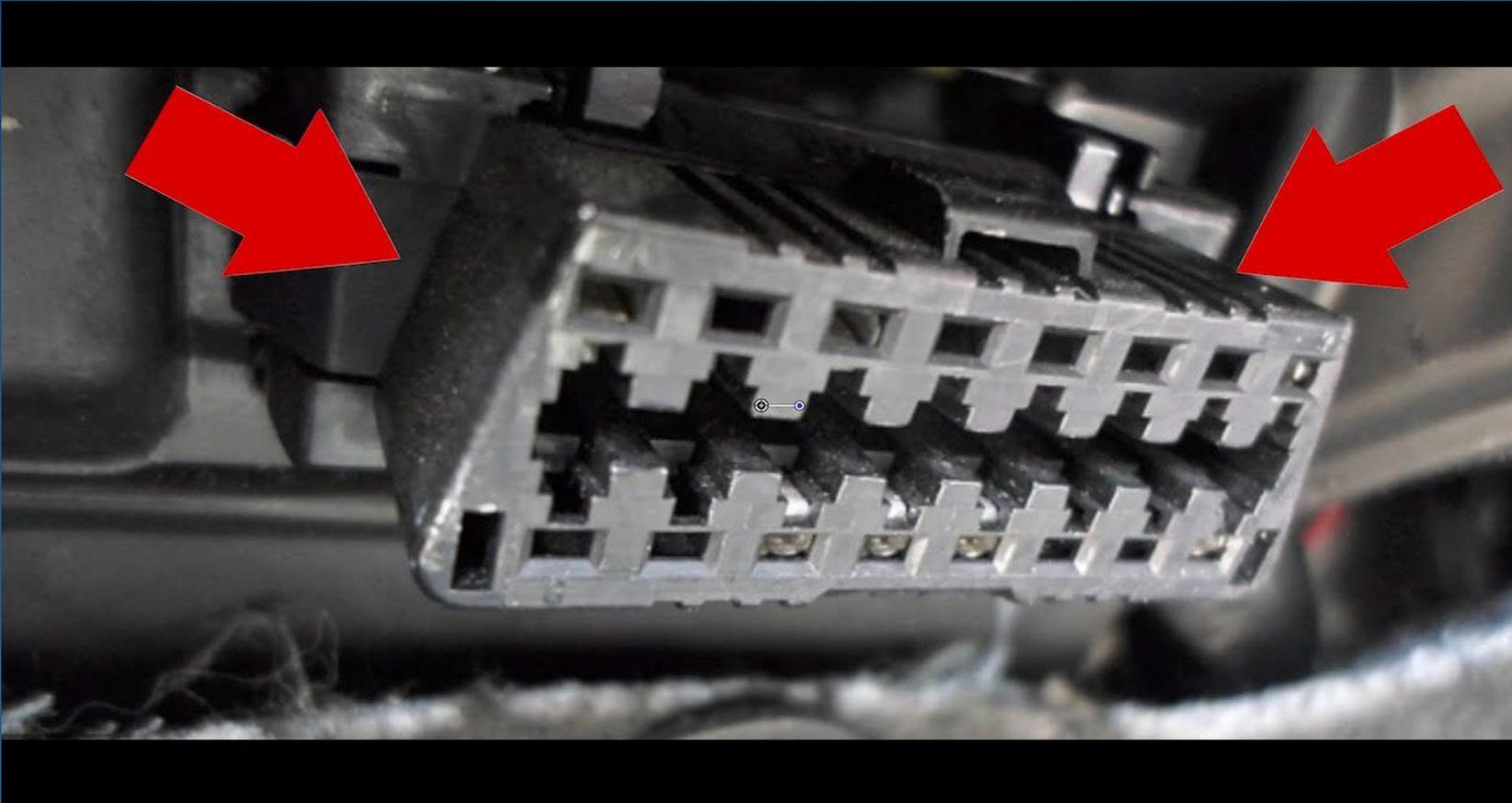
- ▶ OBDII stands for “On-Board Diagnostics, 2nd Generation.” The 1990 Federal Clean Air Act required that the OBD computer systems of every vehicle sold in the United States be standardized starting with 1996 light duty vehicles. The OBDII standards mandate a 16-pin diagnostic connection port with standardized communication that allows for a single connector to read the computer systems of every vehicle subject to the CAA mandate. The OBDII standard has grown as all vehicles sold in the United States are brought within compliance. The following timeline shows federal OBDII implementation for different vehicle classes.

<https://www.missourigvip.com/OBD2#:~:text=The%20OBDII%20computer%20monitors%20a, trouble%20codes%20and%20readiness%20monitors>

OBDII locations



OBD II Port



Summary

- ▶ The participant obtains a fraudulent state title, P-VIN label, and Federal door sticker for the vehicle using an assumed/clear VIN, which they turn around and sell to a local, out-of-state, or out-of-the-country. The NEW OWNER or COOPERATING SUSPECT then registers with the State the reside, Louisiana.
- ▶ Since LSP-IFAT-NO began their investigation, 139 vehicles have been recovered, ALL with counterfeit VIN, Federal certification labels, titles, bills of sale, fake notary stamps, and most, if not all, fake or compromised identifications.
- ▶ The total impact to the consumer and insurance companies is roughly \$7,277,205.00.

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- ▶ LSP-IFAT-NO was first made aware of an issue with several vehicles that did not conform, and the VINs appeared out of the normal range, meaning the automotive manufacturer never built this vehicle using the VIN attached.
 - ▶ These vehicles also were sourced through Carfax and found NO PREVIOUS REGISTRATION. It was as if the car magically appeared and was registered in Louisiana.
 - ▶ LSP-IFAT-NO leads were sent by the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB). After receiving the LSP-IFAT-NO put in place several steps to confirm or prove the identifiers were true or fake.
 - ▶ Using NICB's "ISO Claim Search," we took the suspect VIN 2020 Ford F-250 VIN 1FT7W2BN2LEC60599 and ran the VIN through additional checks in their system.

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- ▶ We entered the seventeen-digit VIN into the “Claim Inquiry” field and received **NO**, history. This is not all that uncommon, but you should see some type of entry in ISO. A shipping record....
 - ▶ Using CLaimSearch “VINassist.” which takes the seventeen-digit VIN and breaks it down into its respective classification (Country of Origin, Manufacture, Vehicle Type, Series, Engine, Year, Plant and Serial Number).
 - ▶ If the VIN is fake and isn't mathematically correct I should receive an error in **RED** for the incorrect field.

VINassist™

Enter or verify VIN, then click **SUBMIT**.

VIN:



DIGIT	DESCRIPTION	MEANING
1	Country of Origin	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
E	Manufacturer	FORD FORD MOTOR COMPANY
I	Vehicle Type	TRUCK
Z	Gross Vehicle Weight	9, 001-10, 000/ HYDR BK D&P FT+SD INFL
W2B	Series	FORD F250 CREW CAB SRW 4X4
N	Engine	7.3L V8 GAS
2	Check Digit	Check Digit Matches
L	Year	2020
E	Plant	JEFFERSON COUNTY, KY
C60599	Serial Number	Sequence in Range

VIN indicates a 2020 FORD MOTOR COMPANY FORD F250 CREW CAB SRW 4X4

Shipping record not on file.

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- ▶ After checking in ISO ClaimSearch, I took the a section of the VIN and ran a “Partial VIN” query.
 - ▶ The return from “Partial VIN” indicated that the last eight were used by Ford and correctly installed on F-250 model truck, but the VIN number was different 1FT7W2B**N**2LEEC60599 (Bad VIN) 1FT7W2B**T**4LEEC60599 (Good VIN) confirming the VIN sent by the NICB was counterfeit.

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Shipping record on file.

Uh-oh!

We have a problem with your window sticker. Our team is on it!



Close

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- ▶ Using the Office of Motor Vehicles (OMV) database, I secured a copy of the Ford F-250 Title History using the VIN. The history offered a deeper look into the titling process and the individuals associated with the sale.
 - ▶ Just like the VIN, most of the information on the documents (Seller) were cloned or manufactured. After examining the transaction in Louisiana, we found the out-of-state Minnesota title was fake.
 - ▶ NOTE, this paperwork also made it past most of not all insurance providers during the underwriting. All of these vehicles recovered had an active insurance policy on a counterfeit VIN.

Vehicle Bill of Sale

THIS BILL OF SALE is executed this day of, by, (hereinafter "Seller"), residing at, for the benefit of (hereinafter "Buyer"), residing at, .

Buyer - James Jamel Stanfield
Seller - Tracey Campbell

For and in consideration of, which has been acknowledged to have been received by Seller, Seller hereby transfers to Buyer all rights of Seller in the following motor vehicle:

Make: *FORD*

Model: *F-250/4K*

Year: *2000*

Odometer Reading: *109*

Body Type: *Truck*

Vehicle Identification Number (VIN): *1FT7W2BN2LEC60599*

Located in: County, Louisiana.

The form of payment used will be Cash and sales tax will be included as part of the purchase price.

\$7,000.00

ODOMETER STATEMENT:

Federal law mandates that the Seller explicitly state the correct mileage of the motor vehicle upon any transfer of ownership. Failure to comply may result in fines, imprisonment, or other penalties.

The Seller states that the current reading of the vehicle's odometer is miles. This statement is made to the best of the seller's knowledge, and the seller furthermore affirms that he or she has not altered or changed the odometer reading while the vehicle was in the Seller's possession, and has no knowledge of any other individual making such alterations or changes.

The sale and transfer of this motor vehicle is made on an "AS IS" basis, without any express or implied warranties, with no recourse to the Seller, provided that Seller can issue proof that it has title to the property without any liens or encumbrances.

The Buyer has been given the opportunity to inspect, or have inspected, the motor vehicle as defined above. The Buyer agrees to accept all property in its existing state.

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- ▶ After confirming, the VIN was fake. Next, we searched for the suspect Ford F-250. Some of these vehicles were at the address of registration, but a number of these automobiles could not be found.
 - ▶ We learned that many fake titles came through Louisiana OMVs only to be shipped out-of-state and resold. The suspect(s) used Louisiana OMV to secure a proper title and exploited a flaw in the OMV process that was missed by many satellite title agencies (ABC and Mid-City Title & Insurance).
 - ▶ Once we had enough information we applied for a search warrant and served on the target vehicle.
 - ▶ The photos are from another vehicle, but the facts and circumstances are identical.




1C6SRFBT8KN668666



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- ▶ With each recovery and subsequent interview, we were told by the current owner that they purchased the vehicle from Craig's List, Facebook Market Place, for pennies on the dollar. That the communication between both parties (Seller and buyer) were routed through private/encrypted text applications. Where once sent, it was deleted, removing any record of their communication.
 - ▶ These 139-plus cases are currently in litigation (State and Federal courts). Therefore, I cannot provide any suspect name(s) related to these cases. However, I hope the information given gave you some insight into the outstanding work the Louisiana State Police is investigating.
 - ▶ We also learned that, like most organizations, some individuals splintered off into different groups establishing new home locations across Louisiana and neighboring states.
 - ▶ Thank you for your time. Any questions?