



# Abbotsford Police Department

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**Bob Rich**  
Chief Constable

*"Protecting with Pride"*

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### APD NEWS RELEASE:

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### Incident: Congregations' Vehicles Targeted on Sunday

**Abbotsford – January 24, 2011.**

Yesterday morning three vehicles in the parking lots of two Abbotsford churches were targeted by thieves interested in vehicle registration documents and garage door openers. While the congregations were attending morning service, the suspects were smashing windows and slashing tires. In one case the acquisition of the vehicle owner's address and garage door opener resulted in a subsequent break and enter to their residence where electronics and jewelry were stolen. Although church parking lots have not been immune from thefts in the past, this is the first time the slashing of tires has been used as part of the modus operandi. Presumably, the suspects want to ensure they have more time to commit the break and enter as the owner is forced to deal with their disabled vehicle.

The Abbotsford Police Department's Community Policing Office and Crime Prevention Section have provided information about the incidents to all churches in the community. The Patrol Division and Crime Analysts are presently working on possible suspects. All citizens are reminded to keep valuables with them and not in their cars. Suspicious activity observed in parking lots or anywhere else in the city should immediately be reported to the Abbotsford Police.

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*Our Mission:  
To make Abbotsford the safest city in B.C.*