



Reidsville Police Department

"Making A Difference"

220 West Morehead Street
Reidsville, North Carolina 27320

ROBERT A. HASSELL
CHIEF OF POLICE

Reidsville Police Department- Operation Safe Guard

May 13, 2019- Over the past two years, the Reidsville Police Department has had a significant increase in Motor Vehicle Thefts. In 2018, the police department investigated 48 motor vehicle thefts, which is the highest the department has seen in three years. So far in 2019, the Reidsville Police Department has investigated 25 Motor Vehicle Thefts. The 2019 total is projected to outnumber that of 2018. In an effort to combat Motor Vehicle Theft, the Reidsville Police Department will be launching Operation Safe Guard on May 13, 2019. This operation will be completed in two separate phases; phase 1 will be an awareness phase while phase 2 will begin the enforcement phase.

Phase 1 will begin with the placement of numerous road signs stating "Lock it or Lose it." We will strategically place these signs in areas that have high volumes of traffic in order to remind the public to lock their vehicles while they are unattended. Any vehicles that officers find to be left running while unattended, officers will place flyers stating "lock it or lose it" along with the statute mandating that vehicles be turned off while on public highway or public vehicular areas, *General Statute 20-163*. Also we will be utilizing social media to spread the word of our Safe Guard Operation and we will begin speaking with the public at different community events happening throughout the City of Reidsville.

After four weeks of phase 1, we will then transition into phase 2, enforcement. Phase 2 will be the issuance of citations for any vehicles left running while unattended. "We do not necessarily want to write tickets during this phase of the operation. We are hoping that phase 1 will raise enough awareness that officers will not need to enforce this statute," said Chief of Police Robert Hassell. The Reidsville Police Department believes that Operation Safe Guard will help us reduce the number of Motor Vehicle Thefts and the overall crime rate within Reidsville. We are encouraging the public to help fight theft with awareness.

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