

I have read reports showing catalytic converter theft increase as high as 1600 percent. We have to put more measures on the chain that is fed by catalytic converter theft.

The theft itself, involves gangs of criminals stalking certain types of vehicle (following old ladies to their homes), using a jack to lift the vehicle, using a saw to cut off the catalytic converter before fleeing. The theft takes just 10-15 mins but like all crime the impact on the victim is great. The victim is left with approx.2000USD of damage which the insurance company will only pay for if there is a police report - while the criminal sells the catalytic converter to the scrap metal business for 30-50USD. We have to do more to control and limit the sale of used catalytic converters as they are almost certainly stolen.

Also, I work in insurance and I can tell you that crimes against vehicle result in more claims. This increase in claims results in higher insurance premiums for everybody.