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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Catalytic Converter Thieves Caught On Video

Kettering-The Kettering Police Department is investigating thefts from vehicles that occurred on November 11, 2007. The items stolen were the catalytic converters from two works trucks belonging to Kitchens By Design located at 3105 Wilmington Pike in Kettering.

Three white male suspects are clearly seen on security video, stealing catalytic converters from the parked vehicles.

The theft of catalytic converters has increased abroad, though the Kettering Police Department has not investigated a large number of these thefts.

Catalytic converters are a component found on most automobiles and trucks manufactured since the early 1970s. The device looks much like a muffler and is part of the vehicle's exhaust system. Its purpose is to reduce harmful emissions.

Modern catalytic converters are manufactured with internal components made of platinum, a precious metal. Because of the value of the platinum, thieves are selling the converters for cash.

Thieves usually use a portable reciprocating saw to cut the exhaust pipe in front of, and behind the converter, and then make off with the piece. This can be done fairly quickly and the thieves are hidden beneath the vehicle during the theft.

The Kettering Police would like help in identifying the suspects in the video. We would also like anyone who has recently experienced such a theft in Kettering to contact us at (937) 296-2555.

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