**For Immediate Release**

**Identity theft and Vehicle Break-ins**

**Halifax, May 28, 2015 -** The Insurance Brokers Association of Nova Scotia (IBANS) advises motorists that when vehicles are broken into your insurance and registration documents are also at risk.

A vehicles glove box is similar to a purse or digital device. It contains personal information that can be used for the purpose of identity theft. “Consumers can no longer just worry about hiding shopping bags and valuables out of site, as now it’s the information vandals are looking for,” says Karen Slaunwhite, Executive Director, IBANS.

What can thieves do with these papers? Vehicle permits and insurance papers contain your address and can be used for automotive identity theft, meaning thieves can use this type of information to create documents for stolen vehicles. Insurance information can also be used to make false claims or for personal identity fraud. Thieves can try and utilize the information to have the ownership of a vehicle transferred or in some cases use the vehicle as an asset when applying for credit.

Reducing your risk:

* Give only your ignition key to a parking lot attendants or people working on your vehicle.
* Keep your vehicle registration certificate and proof of insurance on you instead of in your glove box.
* Always lock your vehicle, even at home.
* Keep vehicle windows rolled up and close your sunroof.
* Don’t leave any items of value or packages visible in an unattended vehicle. Put them in the trunk.
* Park your vehicle in a well-lit or travelled area.

Remember it only takes seconds for a professional criminal to gain access to your vehicle so limit their chances by taking the above precautions.

This message has been brought to you by the Insurance Brokers Association of Nova Scotia.

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