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For Immediate Release

Nationwide Insurance Holds "On Your Side" Fraud Awareness Day in Richmond

Nationwide Insurance, the Virginia State Police Help Eliminate Auto Theft (H.E.A.T.) and Insurance Fraud (IFP) programs, and the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) are sponsoring an **On Your Side – Fraud Awareness Day and VIN Etching at Nationwide Insurance on Nov. 3.**

The event, which is open to the public, will be held in the parking lot of Nationwide's Richmond office located at 7501 Boulders View Drive, Boulders III area, Richmond, VA 23225, from 10a.m. to 2p.m. Outside exhibits and displays about insurance fraud and vehicle theft will be available for the public.

In addition, the H.E.A.T. Program will hold a **FREE V.I.N. etching for vehicles, including motorcycles, from 11a.m. to 4 p.m.** The only requirements for V.I.N etching are the vehicle's owner must be present at the V.I.N. etching and have the current registration for that vehicle.

All vehicles carry a federally-assigned number known as a Vehicle Identification Number (V.I.N.). Numbers are permanently etched into the glass with a chemical solution. In the case of motorcycles, the numbers are left on the bike via a technology that will not mar the surface of the bike and leaves the numbers invisible to the naked eye.

Making sure those numbers are marked permanently on a vehicle's windows steers thieves away. Why? Well, for one thing, disposing of a vehicle whose windows have been V.I.N. etched takes time, trouble and money, all in short supply for thieves. That's because the windows of stolen V.I.N. etched vehicles must be stripped and replaced before a thief can get rid of the car, a costly and time-consuming process. And V.I.N. etching obliterates any potential profit professional thieves might have gleaned from the lucrative practice of selling windows, windshields and motorcycles for parts via chop shops.

If you have knowledge of a fraudulent insurance scheme or suspect you may have been the victim of insurance fraud, report the activity to IFP on the insurance fraud hotline at 1-877-62FRAUD (1-877-623-7283) or visit www.StampOutFraud.com. You may also be eligible to receive a reward of up to \$25,000.

The H.E.A.T. Program also offers a reward of up to \$25,000 for information that leads to an arrest for vehicle theft. Call 1-800-947-HEAT (1-800-947-4238) or go to www.HeatReward.com if you have information about auto theft.

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