

## Help End Auto Theft

The Help End Auto Theft Operation (HEAT) is a statewide vehicle registration program aimed at reducing auto theft during nighttime hours. A car is stolen in Texas every five and a half minutes, and every 20 seconds in the U.S.. More vehicles are stolen between 1:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m. than any other time. In 2002, more than 102,000 vehicles were stolen in Texas. Simply by enrolling, you make it a lot harder for a thief to drive away in your car. If you do not normally drive your vehicle between the hours of 1 a.m. and 5 a.m., you can volunteer to sign an agreement and have two special HEAT stickers placed on your vehicle. Under this agreement, if police officers see your vehicle being driven during the hours of 1 a.m. and 5 a.m., they may stop the vehicle to verify ownership. One advantage of the Texas H.E.A.T. program over citywide decal programs is that peace officers throughout the state have immediate access to the data. Even if the thief has removed the decal, the officer will know the vehicle is registered in Texas as H.E.A.T.

### Car H.E.A.T. Front Decals

Two additional decals can be added to the front window to help prevent the car from being driven illegally into Mexico.

A yellow decal authorizes officials to stop the car between the hours of 1 a.m. and 5 a.m. statewide.



A white decal authorizes officers to stop the vehicle any time it crosses the border into Mexico.

You may register your vehicle in the HEAT program by downloading the enrollment form and mailing it to the Texas Department of Public Safety.

**Texas Department of Public Safety**  
**Texas H.E.A.T. Program**  
**P.O. Box 4143**  
**Austin, Texas 78765**