

HUGO — Lt. Steve Babcock of the Hugo Police Department said a rash of auto burglaries over the last few months have few leads.

He warns people not to store items of value in their vehicle, especially purses, when they are away. Babcock said the majority of the burglaries have involved women's purses, which are often left in plain view, stashed under a seat or hastily covered up.

"The burglars are still able to see the purses or a portion thereof and within 10 seconds have shattered the window and taken the purse," he said.

They then take the stolen bag to a safer area where they remove the cash and valuables and dispose of the purse.

Police report several of these crimes have occurred at churches and other public venues.

"Women need to remove their purses all together and if that's not possible, place the purse into the trunk," Babcock said. "These crimes can be averted by these two simple precautions."