



LPRs in Action



License Plate Readers - Making Missouri Safer

License plate readers (LPRs) are vital to making Missouri safer, providing law enforcement with a fast, reliable way to identify vehicles connected to criminal activity and public safety threats. LPR technology allows officers to act swiftly to disrupt criminal activity. This crime fighting tool is strengthening statewide crime prevention efforts and improving overall community safety in Missouri.



The Critical Role of LPRs in Fighting Crime in Missouri

1 First-Degree Murder Suspect Arrested

Shortly after the gruesome stabbing death of a mid-Missouri woman, law enforcement located her killer at a nearby park aided by LPRs. The man was convicted of first-degree murder for killing his child's mother.

2 Driver Charged in Fatal Hit-and-Run

A Florida truck driver struck a man changing a tire along Interstate 44 and left the scene. Law enforcement working with out-of-state partners and LPR technology located and arrested the suspect in Pennsylvania.

3 Multi-State Theft Ring Busted

Members of an organized theft ring that hit 19 Menards stores in Missouri, Iowa, and Nebraska were arrested following thefts at multiple stores in Missouri. Law enforcement utilized LPRs to identify a route of travel and alerted Menards stores in the area. This allowed local law enforcement to locate and arrest the suspects.

4 Child Rape Suspect Arrested

Using LPR technology and strong state-to-state law enforcement contacts, a vehicle belonging to a 25-year-old man from South Dakota wanted for raping a 14-year-old Missouri girl passed an LPR in Kansas, alerting local law enforcement. The vehicle was located, stopped, and the suspect was taken into custody.

5 Two Kidnapped Children Located Safe

Two children were abducted in Missouri causing the issuance of an AMBER Alert. The suspect vehicle passed an LPR alerting law enforcement of the direction of travel. The vehicle was located, stopped, and the driver was taken into custody. Both children were found safe in the vehicle.

6 Murder Suspect Arrested

Less than two hours after a man allegedly killed his wife and the mother of two children, his vehicle was located using LPRs leading to his arrest.

7 KS-MO Information Sharing Captures Violent Fugitive

LPRs assisted Kansas law enforcement locate a dangerous fugitive. LPRs allowed law enforcement to establish a pattern of travel leading to a storage facility. A K9 alerted on a storage unit. Following the execution of two search warrants, officers seized currency, stolen firearms, fentanyl, marijuana, drug manufacturing materials, and high value jewelry. The suspect drove by the storage facility as law enforcement was conducting the search. Law enforcement pursued the suspect, and he was taken into custody. The suspect was armed when arrested in Missouri.

8 Child Abuse Suspect

Missouri Law enforcement received an LPR hit through dispatch of a subject with active warrants. During the vehicle stop, the suspect fled and a foot pursuit ensued. The subject was taken into custody for a felony warrant for child abuse. During the arrest, it was discovered the subject was in the United States illegally.

9 Child Pornography Suspect Arrested

Missouri Law enforcement located and arrested a registered sex offender with five warrants for possession of child pornography through the identification of an associate's vehicle and utilizing LPRs to locate the vehicle of interest.

10 Church Burglars Located and Arrested

Using LPR technology, Missouri law enforcement determined the suspects vehicle's path of travel and initiated a traffic stop. The suspects were also wanted on felony warrants for robbery resulting in serious physical injuries to the victim. A pursuit ensued, ending in the arrest of two suspects.



LPR FACT vs FICTION

WHAT LPR TECHNOLOGY IS:

- A public safety tool that reads license plates already visible to anyone on a public roadway
- A way to quickly identify stolen vehicles, locate wanted suspects, missing or endangered persons, and vehicles tied to violent crime
- A system designed to capture the license plate, date, time passing the LPR location—nothing more
- Technology that helps officers work faster, safer, and more accurately
- Technology governed by strict policies, audits, and access controls

WHAT LPR TECHNOLOGY ISN'T:

- NOT facial recognition
- NOT a tracking system for people or personal behavior
- NOT a database of private information
- NOT a tool for monitoring political activity, protests, or personal associations
- NOT a revenue generating or ticketing system
- NOT mass surveillance

Myths vs Facts

Myth: "LPRs give government too much power."

Fact: LPR use is restricted by policy, oversight, audits, and strict access controls. Officers must have a legitimate investigative reason to query LPR data.

Myth: "LPRs track people."

Fact: LPRs read license plates, not people. It cannot identify drivers or passengers.

Myth: "LPRs collect private or sensitive information."

Fact: LPR does not collect names, addresses, driver's license info, or any personal data.

Myth: "LPRs are inaccurate and lead to wrongful stops."

Fact: Modern LPR systems are highly accurate and officers must verify all alerts before taking action.

Myth: "LPRs invades privacy."

Fact: LPRs assist in what an officer or citizen can already legally observe.

Myth: "LPRs are a step toward facial recognition."

Fact: LPRs cannot identify faces, people, or biometrics of any kind. The technology is limited to reading characters on a license plate.

Myth: "LPRs create a database of innocent citizens."

Fact: All information is purged unless tied to a legitimate investigation. Data retention is available for a short period before being cleared.

Myth: "LPRs will be used to monitor protests or political activity."

Fact: LPRs are prohibited from being used related to First Amendment protected activities. Access logs and routine audits ensure compliance.

Myth: "LPRs replace officers."

Fact: LPRs boost officer efficiency; they do not replace human judgment or discretion.