HAITIAN EARTHQUAKE RELIEF FRAUD ALERT

The FBI reminds Internet users who receive appeals to donate money in the aftermath of January 12th, 2010, earthquake in Haiti to apply a critical eye and do their due diligence before responding to those requests. Past tragedies and natural disasters have prompted individuals with criminal intent to solicit contributions purportedly for a charitable organization and/or a good cause. Therefore, before making a donation of any kind, consumers should adhere to certain guidelines, to include the following:

- Do not respond to any unsolicited (spam) incoming e-mails, including clicking links contained within those messages.
- Be skeptical of individuals representing themselves as surviving victims or officials asking for donations via e-mail or social networking sites.
- Verify the legitimacy of nonprofit organizations by utilizing various Internet-based resources that may assist in confirming the group's existence and its nonprofit status rather than following a purported link to the site.
- Be cautious of e-mails that claim to show pictures of the disaster areas in attached files because the files may contain viruses. Only open attachments from known senders.
- Make contributions directly to known organizations rather than relying on others to make the donation on your behalf to ensure contributions are received and used for intended purposes.
- Do not give your personal or financial information to anyone who solicits contributions: Providing such information may compromise your identity and make you vulnerable to identity theft.

Thefts

01/07 Professional Arts Center

Employee reported that a Dell flat screen monitor and a keyboard were missing from a 3rd floor procedure room. Items valued at $300.00.
01/08 Kendall Medical Center
Employee reported that a UM logo plate was missing from the front of his vehicle when he returned to it after work. Item valued at $30.00.

01/12 Batchelor Children’s Center
Manager reported that lab supplies valued at $300.00 were missing from a 4th floor lab and cold room.

01/12 Sylvester Cancer Center Deerfield Beach
Administrator reported the surgical instruments valued at $3,000.00, reported missing on 11/12/09 had been located. All of the instruments were accounted for. (Solved)

01/15 Kendall Medical Center
Employee reported that a bottle of hand sanitizer was missing from the reception desk. The perpetrator, a visitor, was identified and the item was returned. (Solved)

01/25 UM Hospital Employee Parking Lot
Security discovered a broken driver’s side window of an employee’s car. The radio had been removed along with a purse left under the front seat containing credit cards and $150.00 cash.

01/26 UM Hospital
Employee reported computer equipment missing from a South Building 1st floor storage area. Items valued at $7,000.00.

01/28 UM Hospital and Clinics
Visitor reported that an MP3 player and a digital camera were missing from his vehicle which was left with the valet two weeks prior on two different days.

Assault
None

Burglary
None

Vehicle Incidents

01/08 Bascom Palmer Eye Institute Valet Lot
Visitor reported discovering scratches on both sides of his vehicle several days after leaving it with the valet.

01/15 Magnetic Resonance Imaging
Witness advised that a vehicle leaving the parking lot struck another car causing some minor scratches.
01/23  **UM Hospital and Clinics**
Visitor reported that they discovered damage to their vehicle which had been left with the valet the previous day.

01/25  **14th Street Garage**
The north side exit gate closed on the hood of a visitor’s vehicle causing a minor scratch.

01/25  **Kendall Medical Center**
Employee reported that she discovered minor damage to the left front bumper of her vehicle.

**Trespassers**

01/02  **Calder Library**
Security discovered a male sleeping in an outside stairwell on the east side of the building. The male was escorted away from the building.

01/07  **Dominion Garage**
Security called to the Wachovia Bank branch regarding a male loitering inside. Male contacted and stated he was getting out of the cold. The male left the area in a taxi.

01/11  **UM Hospital and Clinics**
Security observed a suspicious male enter the building. He was contacted and left the area on a bicycle.

01/13  **Mailman Center**
Housekeeping staff alerted security to a male who enter the lobby while they were working. The male was contacted and escorted away from the building.

01/13  **Rosenstiel Medical Science Building**
Security alerted to a suspicious male on a bicycle near the parking area on the southeast corner of the building. The male was contacted and he left the area.

01/14  **Park Plaza East**
Security notified of a male lying near the entrance of a ground floor office. The male was contacted and left the area.

01/17  **Magnetic Resonance Imaging**
Security observed a male attempting to take metal fencing stored near the building. The male was contacted and escorted away from the area.

01/18  **Lois Pope Life Center**
Security observed a male loitering near the northeast stairwell door. The male left the area on a bicycle when a security officer approached.

01/28  **Biomedical Research Building**
Security observed a male soliciting for money on the southeast corner of the building. The male was contacted and escorted off the property.

Security.med.miami.edu
**Escorts**

University of Miami Security Officers provided escorts to any place on campus, including Metrorail. We encourage you to use this service when walking alone and particularly after hours. Security Officers will meet you at your work location and escort you safely to your vehicle, Metrorail, or any other building on campus. Call 243-6079 to request an escort. You may be able to reduce your waiting time if you call a few minutes before you are ready to leave.

During January, security officers provided 111 escorts with an average waiting time of 3:34 minutes.

**General Information**

**FREE SECURITY SURVEYS or CRIME PREVENTION SEMINARS**

Conducted on an individual or group basis. To make an appointment or to request information, call Lee Michaud, Crime Prevention & Training Manager at 243-5084.

**CRIME TIP HOTLINE (243-6280)**

Caller can remain anonymous. All information kept confidential. Ask for Craig Hopkins, Investigator at 243-6280.