

University of Miami Medical Campus Crime Summary Report April 2010

****Tip of the Month****

Office Creepers

Most criminals know that the best way to successfully commit a crime is to allow their victims to remain comfortable. The very worst criminals are the ones who look harmless and blend in with their surroundings. While taking advantage of these basic criminal principals, an increasing number of normal every day people are committing potentially serious property crimes. They're called "office creepers", and they're becoming more common. These brazen crooks embody a caustic blend of impersonation, stalking, and thievery.

Today's office environment features busy and mobile professionals who are continually on-the-go. We conduct conference calls on our cell phones, access the Internet with our PDAs, and take thousands of files home by simply packing up our notebook computers. However, this convenience and portability has a price. Transportable electronic devices are easy prey for thieves who can resell the products on the street for a huge profit.

Many people who wouldn't dream of leaving their computer or phone sitting in their unlocked car think nothing of leaving those items in an unattended cubicle at work.

Office Creeper 101 An "office creeper" may skulk into your office dressed in uniform like a building engineer or in upscale casual wear or suit and tie to blend into the corporate culture. Try to become familiar with all of the co-workers in your immediate area. By knowing the identities of all your co-workers, you can easily identify an individual who may be out of place.

Flag and Tag the Wanderer If you see someone unfamiliar wandering the halls or casually roaming about, ask if you can help them. Ask questions like "May I help you find someone?"

Honor Your Access Control Policy If someone is walking around without proper identification. If you believe an individual seems suspicious, notify security. Be sure to note details about the person's appearance so that you can provide a thorough description.

Don't Hide Valuable in Plain Sight While it may feel safer to tuck your wallet or purse into an unlocked cabinet drawer or under your desk, it's not, as this is generally the very first place an office creeper looks. Position coat racks and hangars away from all doorways so that a thief cannot easily snatch items from the outside.

Thefts

04/01 UM Hospital and Clinics

Employee reported that she left her wallet in a bag on a chair at the 3rd floor nurse's station. When she returned the wallet was missing.

04/01 Bascom Palmer Eye Institute

Administrator reported that a \$3000.00 teaching scope was missing from a 1st floor exam room. On 04/02 security investigator located the item. (Solved)

04/01 UM Hospital

Patient came to South Building to pick up his prior checked in valuables and reported that \$515.00 in cash was missing. Receipt signed by patient at check in indicated he had no cash.

04/02 UM Hospital Parking Garage

Visitor reported that the wheels were removed from his vehicle while parked on the 6th floor. Items valued at \$5,000.00.

04/06 UM Hospital

Patient's wife reported that a cell phone and charger were missing from a 6th floor room while the patient was having a procedure.

04/08 Clinical Research Building

Employee reported that ten Publix gift cards were missing from her secured desk drawer on the 11th floor.

04/09 UM Hospital

Employee reported that a deposit bag was taken from a locked drawer in a ground floor clinic. Bag contained \$27.00 cash.

04/11 NW 10th Avenue

Employee who was parked on the east side on the Diabetes Research Institute building reported that the passenger's side window was broken out. A cell phone and a GPS device were missing.

04/13 JMH Central Building

Employee reported that their wallet was taken from an unsecured office on the 3rd floor. The wallet contained Identification, debit, ATM, credit cards and \$5.00 cash.

04/14 UM Hospital

Security discovered that 2 "no smoking" signs were missing from the south entrance walkway of the East Building.

04/14 UM Hospital and Clinics

Miami Police advised that the perpetrator of a laptop theft reported on 03/22 was arrested. He was identified from security video. (Solved)

04/14 UM Hospital

Employee reported that a flat screen computer monitor was missing from a ground floor department.

04/16 UM Hospital and Clinics

Patient reported that he placed his sports coat on the back of his motorized wheelchair prior to having a procedure in a treatment area on the 2nd floor. When the treatment was completed the patient discovered the coat was gone. The inside pocket contained his FP&L bill and \$200.00 cash.

04/19 Clinical Research Building

Employee reported that an Apple Mac Book laptop was delivered on 04/16 and left on a desk in an unsecured area of a 10th floor office. When the employee returned the box was gone.

04/20 UM Hospital

An employee and a visitor witnessed a male enter a parked ambulance near the ER. The male exited carrying items from the vehicle. Miami Police responded and the male was arrested. He had medical items valued at \$85.00 in his possession. (Solved)

04/21 UM Hospital

Employee reported that their wallet was missing from a purse left in their desk drawer in an unsecured 2nd floor office. The wallet contained identification, credit cards and \$10.00 cash.

04/22 Sylvester Cancer Center

Employee reported that five small portable document scanners were missing from a 1st floor registration area. Items valued at \$750.00.

04/27 Bascom Palmer Eye Institute

Patient reported that they left their wallet on a chair in a 5th floor waiting area. When they returned from an exam the wallet was gone. The wallet contained identification, credit cards and \$22.00 cash.

04/28 UM Hospital

Patient reported that \$260.00 cash was missing from his Pent House floor room.

04/30 Clinical Research Building

Employee reported that she left her iPhone in an 11th floor lunch room and when she returned it was missing.

Assault

04/08 UM Hospital and Clinics Valet

Two visitors were involved in a dispute. One visitor had a cane and the other some type of stick. Both alleged they were struck. Miami Police responded. There were no injuries and the visitor resolved their issues.

Burglary

None

Vehicle Incidents

04/01 Bascom Palmer Eye Institute

Valet employee returning a vehicle to the ramp struck another valet employee also returning a vehicle to the ramp, causing minor damage, at the traffic signal at NW 9th Avenue at 17th Street.

04/01 Park Plaza West

Vehicle parked on west side of building caught fire. There were no injuries.

04/08 UM Hospital Parking Garage

A supervisor reported that the 2nd floor exit gate struck the top of his car causing minor damage.

04/15 Miami Lakes Surplus Warehouse

Surplus employee operating a forklift struck a vehicle's open driver side door causing minor damage.

04/16 UM Hospital and Clinics Valet

Visitor struck a parked vehicle, causing minor damage, after getting his car from the valet.

04/23 14th Street Garage

Student reported that a small dent was discovered on the rear driver's side of their vehicle parked on the 3rd level.

04/23 Hope Lodge

Transportation Department van struck a palm tree while backing, breaking out one of the rear windows.

04/27 15th Street Garage

Employee reported she discovered damage on the rear left side of her vehicle when she arrived home. Vehicle was parked on the 5th level. Security video revealed that the damage was on the vehicle when the employee arrived at the garage. (Solved)

04/28 14th Street Garage

Employee's vehicle was struck by a vehicle backing out of a space on the 9th level. There were minor damage and no injuries.

Trespassers

04/01 Bascom Palmer Eye Institute

Security observed a known trespasser enter the main lobby and go to a 1st floor clinic. The male was contacted and escorted out of the building.

04/13 14th Street Surface Parking Lot

Security called regarding a male harassing the valet employees. The male was contacted and escorted off the property.

04/19 UM Hospital

Security observed a male soliciting passersby for money in the area of the parking garage. Miami Police responded and arrested the male.

04/20 Bascom Palmer Eye Institute

Employee reported that an unknown male approached her at the south exit and was swearing at her. Security responded and the male was gone. The employee was escorted to her car.

04/21 NW 15th Street and 9th Avenue

Security observed a known trespasser near the construction trailers. When approached the male brandished a knife. Miami Police responded and took the male into custody.

04/22 UM Hospital

Staff reported that there was an unauthorized male in the Emergency Room soliciting for money. Security contacted the male and escorted him out of the building.

04/29 Bascom Palmer Eye Institute

Security observed a suspicious male loitering near the coffee machine on the 3rd floor. When the male could not confirm an appointment he was escorted out of the building.

04/30 Bascom Palmer Eye Institute

Security observed the same male observed on 04/29 attempting to enter the building. The male was contacted and escorted out of the building.

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 April, security officers provided 128 escorts with an average waiting time of 3:41 minutes.

General Information

FREE SECURITY SURVEYS or CRIME PREVENTION SEMINARS

Conducted on an individual or group basis. To make an appointment

Security.med.miami.edu

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.