

# University of Miami Medical Campus Crime Summary Report May 2010

## **\*\*Tip of the Month\*\***

### RENTAL AND REAL ESTATE SCAMS

Individuals need to be cautious when posting rental properties and real estate on-line. The FBI continues to receive numerous complaints from individuals who have fallen victim to scams involving rentals of apartments and houses, as well as postings of real estate online.

Rental scams occur when the victim has rental property advertised and is contacted by an interested party. Once the rental price is agreed-upon, the scammer forwards a check for the deposit on the rental property to the victim. The check is to cover housing expenses and is, either written in excess of the amount required, with the scammer asking for the remainder to be remitted back, or the check is written for the correct amount, but the scammer backs out of the rental agreement and asks for a refund. Since the banks do not usually place a hold on the funds, the victim has immediate access to them and believes the check has cleared. In the end, the check is found to be counterfeit and the victim is held responsible by the bank for all losses.

Another type of scam involves real estate that is posted via classified advertisement websites. The scammer duplicates postings from legitimate real estate websites and reposts these ads, after altering them. Often, the scammers use the broker's real name to create a fake e-mail, which gives the fraud more legitimacy. When the victim sends an e-mail through the classified advertisement website inquiring about the home, they receive a response from someone claiming to be the owner. The "owner" claims he and his wife are currently on missionary work in a foreign country. Therefore, he needs someone to rent their home while they are away. If the victim is interested in renting the home, they are asked to send money to the owner in the foreign country.

## Thefts

### 05/01 Rosenstiel Medical Science Building

Student reported that he left his Toshiba laptop computer in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Computer Lab. When he returned three days later the computer was missing. 05/03 Security Investigator located computer and it was returned to the owner. (Solved)

### 05/02 Sewell Building

Administrator reported that a Dell Latitude laptop computer was missing from an unlocked closet in a secured 2<sup>nd</sup> floor office.

**05/02 Fred Cowell Mall**

An unidentified male removed the wheels from a bicycle locked to the bike rack on the south end of the mall.

**05/05 UM Hospital**

A patient signed out against medical advice and took a wheelchair home with him. Security contacted the individual and arranged for the return of the chair. (Solved)

**05/11 Dominion Towers**

Employee reported that an \$80 trash receptacle was taken from a 12<sup>th</sup> floor hallway. 05/12 Security investigator located the item. (Solved)

**05/14 Diabetes Research Institute**

Employee reported that her wallet was missing from an unsecured 1<sup>st</sup> floor office. The wallet contained credit and debit cards and a driver license. Employee reported on 05/18 that they found their wallet. (Solved)

**05/17 UM Hospital and Clinics**

Employee reported that a Space Lab monitor was missing from a 3<sup>rd</sup> floor treatment area.

**05/17 Professional Arts Center**

Visitor reported that they left their umbrella in a 4<sup>th</sup> floor clinic and it was gone when they returned.

**05/21 Rosenstiel Medical Science Building**

Employee reported that 5 boxes containing 50 vials of medication were missing from a 1<sup>st</sup> floor storage area. The items were valued at \$150.00.

**05/24 UM Hospital**

Employee reported that 4 five gallon containers of floor wax valued at \$400.00 were missing from a delivery left on the loading dock. 06/01 Security investigator identified the perpetrator and the items were recovered. (Solved)

**05/25 UM Hospital**

Patient discovered that while he was out of his 6<sup>th</sup> floor room for treatment a bag containing clothing, toiletries and two checks was missing.

**05/25 UM Hospital**

Patient reported that their Samsung cell phone was missing from a Penthouse floor room.

**05/25 Bascom Palmer Eye Institute**

Administrator reported that approximately numerous surgical instruments from a 3<sup>rd</sup> floor department have not returned from sterilization over a period of several months.

05/26 UM Hospital

Employee reported that their purse was taken off their desk in an unsecured 1<sup>st</sup> floor office. Purse contained \$25.00 cash, ATM, credit card and identification.

05/26 UM Hospital

Patient reported that her Samsung cell phone was missing from a Penthouse floor room. Item valued at \$100.00.

05/27 Batacelor Children's Center

Physician reported that a nebulizer was missing from a 2<sup>nd</sup> floor clinic. Item valued at \$250.00. Security investigator found the perpetrator. The item was recovered. (Solved)

## Assault

05/08 UM Hospital

Patient upset over medication dose, punched a physician in the chest causing a minor bruise.

## Burglary

None

## Vehicle Incidents

05/07 UM Hospital

Visitor backed into another visitor's vehicle in the parking garage causing minor damage. There were no injuries.

05/10 Bascom Palmer Eye Institute Visitor Lot

Visitor's vehicle attempting to park rolled over a steel rod causing a flat tire.

05/11 14<sup>th</sup> Street Garage

Employee struck a visitor's vehicle at the exit. There was minor damage and no injuries.

05/11 14<sup>th</sup> Street Garage

Security utility cart struck and employee's vehicle while patrolling the building causing damage,

05/18 UM Hospital Parking Garage

Visitor's vehicle front bumper was struck by another vehicle that left the area.

05/21 UM Hospital Parking Garage

Visitor reported that they discovered damage to the driver's door of their vehicle that had been parked on the 4<sup>th</sup> level.

**05/24 Sylvester Cancer Center**

Visitor reported that there was a scratch on the left front bumper when their car was returned by the valet.

**05/24 UM Hospital and Clinics**

Patient's vehicle was damaged by valet personnel as it was being parked in the Valet Parking area.

**05/24 15<sup>th</sup> Street Garage**

Employee reported that on 05/19 he discovered the left rear door handle missing from his vehicle. Security video indicated the item was missing when the employee entered the garage on 05/19.

**05/26 UM Hospital**

Visitor discovered damage on the front bumper of his vehicle parked in the West Building parking lot.

**05/27 UM Hospital Braddock Parking Lot**

Two employees were involved in a minor traffic accident at the exit.

**05/28 Kendall Medical Center**

Visitor struck another vehicle while backing out of a parking space. There was minor damage and no injuries.

## **Trespassers**

**05/03 Dominion Towers**

Security advised that two unauthorized males were selling tickets and were disruptive. The males were contacted on the 11<sup>th</sup> floor and escorted out of the building.

**05/03 UM Hospital**

The above males were reported to be on the 8<sup>th</sup> floor selling tickets an hour later. They were contacted by Security and Miami Police and issued a trespass warning.

**05/04 Bascom Palmer Eye Institute**

Employee advised of a male leaving the food court area with two small buckets. Security contacted the male and found the containers were filled with water. The male was advised to leave the area.

**05/05 Sylvester Cancer Center**

Security observed a trespasser enter the building and proceed to a ground floor department. The trespasser was contacted and escorted out of the building.

**05/07 UM Hospital**

Security observed a know trespasser attempting to enter the building. The male was contacted and it was determined he had no reason to be in the building and was escorted out.

05/11 **Mailman Center**

Security responded to a report of a known trespasser on the north side of the building. The male was escorted away from the area,

05/12 **Magnetic Resonance Imaging**

Security called regarding a male that was refusing to leave. The male was contacted and escorted out of the building.

05/14 **Bascom Palmer Eye Institute Valet Parking Lot**

Security called regarding a male who threw his shoes over the fence into the lot. The male was contacted and escorted away from the property.

05/15 **Biomedical Research Building**

Security observed a suspicious male on the northwest corner of the building. The male was contacted and escorted off the property.

05/16 **McKnight Vision Research Center**

Security discovered a known trespasser sleeping at the northwest corner of the building. The male was escorted away from the building.

05/19 **Calder Library**

Security called regarding a male on the east sidewalk annoying passersby. The male left the area when he observed security arriving.

05/19 **Park Plaza West**

Security advised of a male panhandling on the south side of the building. Security responded and the individual was gone.

05/20 **15<sup>th</sup> Street Garage**

Security observed a suspicious female loitering on the northwest corner of the building. The female was escorted away from the area.

05/21 **UM Hospital**

Security advised of an unruly male in the Emergency Room. The male was contacted and identified as a known trespasser. The male was escorted out of the building.

05/22 **Magnetic Resonance Imaging**

Security observed a suspicious male enter the building. The male had no appointment and was escorted out of the building.

05/24 **15<sup>th</sup> Street Garage**

Security observed a male panhandling on the north side of the building. The male was escorted away from the area.

05/25 **Mailman Center**

Security discovered a male sleeping on the north side of the building. The male was escorted away from the area.

05/29 **Bascom Palmer Eye Institute**

Security observed a known trespasser in the food court. The male left the area when he observed the security officers.

# 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-SAFE (7233) 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 May, security officers provided 78 escorts with an average waiting time of 4:53 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.