

University of Miami Medical Campus Crime Summary Report June 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

06/08 14th Street Garage

Employee reported that two wheels were removed from his vehicle while parked on the 2nd floor.

06/14 UM Hospital

Employee reported that four boxes of copy paper were missing from a secured office on the 1st floor.

06/15 UM Hospital

Employee reported that his Samsung cell phone and charger were missing from a 1st floor department.

06/17 Medical Wellness Center

Physician reported that his iPhone and University pager, left on a treadmill, were taken. The perpetrator was identified and the items were recovered on 06/21. (Solved)

06/18 Fred Cowell Mall

Student reported that their bicycle left chained to the bike rack near the Biomedical Research Building was missing.

06/22 UM Hospital

A relative reported that the patient's cell phone was taken while they were out of their 11th floor room.

06/25 Diabetes Research Institute

Administrator reported that a potted orchid plant was missing from her secured 1st floor office. Investigation revealed the reported unknowingly caused the plant to fall and it was clean up by housekeeping. (Solved)

06/30 Rosenstiel Medical Science Building

Physical Plant employee reported that his flashlight was missing from a bag left in a basement storage area. The item was valued at \$48.00.

Assault

06/28 UM Hospital

Visitor exiting the west parking lot failed to have her ticket validated. She became involved in an argument with the parking attendant, exited her vehicle and grabbed the attendant causing a bruise. Miami Police arrested the visitor.

Burglary

None

Vehicle Incidents

06/08 Sylvester Cancer Center

Valet employee struck a visitor's vehicle while pulling up to the valet entrance. There was minor damage and no injuries.

06/11 14th Street Garage

Employee discovered that the passenger side mirror was broken on his vehicle parked on the 9th floor.

06/18 UM Hospital Braddock Parking Lot

Employee pulling out of a parking space turned before clearing and struck the parked vehicle next to the space. There was minor damage and no injuries.

06/23 15th Street Garage

Employee travelling down on from the 3rd floor was struck by an employee travelling up the ramp. There was minor damage and no injuries.

06/25 15th Street Garage

Employee struck another employee's vehicle while parking on the 5th floor. There was minor damage and no injuries.

06/25 Dominion Towers

Employee's vehicle parked in front of the Canterbury Preschool was struck by the school's bus causing minor damage.

06/28 UM Hospital Parking Garage

Valet employee was backing up on the 2nd level and struck an approaching visitor's vehicle causing minor damage.

06/29 14th Street Garage

Visitor backed into a parked vehicle on the 1st floor causing minor damage.

06/30 14th Street Garage

Security discovered a vehicle parked on the 3rd floor with a broken out right front headlight. Miami Police responded.

Trespassers

06/03 Mailman Center

Security called regarding a known trespasser sleeping on the sidewalk near Northwest 11th Court. Male contacted and escorted off the property.

06/09 Park Plaza East

Security called to ground floor office regarding a known trespasser in the lobby. The male was escorted away from the area.

06/09 UM Hospital and Clinics

A male followed an employee into the lobby and then started asking people for money. Security contacted the male and escorted him out of the building.

06/10 National Parkinson Foundation

Security observed a male wearing no clothing walking through the parking lot. Miami Police responded and took the male into custody.

06/10 UM Hospital

Two males were reported to security for attempting to sell baseball game tickets. The males were contacted and escorted out of the building.

06/11 Mailman Center

A suspicious male entered the lobby following an employee. Security contacted the male and escorted him out of the building.

06/11 Schoninger Research Quadrangle

Security observed a suspicious male. The male was contacted and escorted off the property.

06/15 Fred Cowell Mall

Security notified regarding a male soliciting money from passersby near the Biomedical Research Building. The male was contacted and escorted off the property.

06/17 Magnetic Resonance Imaging

Security called regarding a suspicious male who entered the lobby restroom. The male was contacted and escorted away from the property.

06/23 Dominion Garage

It was reported to security that a known trespasser was knocking on the entrance door to a ground floor office. The male was contacted and escorted away from the area.

06/23 Park Plaza East

Security called to a ground floor office regarding a male loitering outside and looking into the windows. He was located on the public sidewalk smoking.

06/24 Clinical Research Building

Security observed a suspicious male in the drive way. The male was contacted and left the area.

06/24 Bascom Palmer Eye Institute

Security observed a suspicious male loitering on the west end of the valet ramp. The male was escorted off the property.

06/24 Schoninger Research Quadrangle

Security encountered a suspicious male in the northeast corner of the area. The male was escorted off the property.

06/24 Calder Library

Security observed a male on the southeast corner of the building soliciting passersby for money. The male was contacted and left the area.

06/25 Bascom Palmer Eye Institute

Security notified of a male going through trash cans and panhandling on the south side of the building. The male was contacted and escorted off the property.

06/25 225 NE 34th Street

Employee reported the description of a suspicious male coming out of a ground floor stairwell. It appeared the male had been sleeping in the stairwell. Security was unable to locate the individual.

06/26 Bascom Palmer Eye Institute

A suspicious male entered the lobby and appeared to be following a visitor asking for the emergency room. The male admitted to following the female and being under the influence. He was 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-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 June, security officers provided 89 escorts with an average waiting time of 3:50 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.