**Tip of the Month**

Safety while Christmas shopping

- Stay alert and be aware of what’s going on around you.
- Park in a well lit area. Always park where there is plenty of light, not only around your car, but from your car to the mall entrance. Be sure to lock the car, close the windows, and never leave shopping bags and gifts in plain view. Do not return to your car, put shopping bags and gift in your vehicle and then return to the mall to continue shopping. If this is absolutely necessary, put the items in your truck and then move your vehicle to another parking location being careful that you are not followed. Once your car is parked, familiarize yourself with its location so you can find it without a hassle. Don’t hesitate to ask for a security escort if you feel unsafe.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash; pay with a check or credit card whenever possible
- Deter pickpockets and purse-snatchers. Don’t overburden yourself with packages. Be extra careful with purses and wallets. Carry a purse close to your body, not dangling by the straps. Less is more. Wear a fanny pack instead of carrying a purse. Besides allowing your hands to be free to hold onto or carry your child, you’ll eliminate the possibility of leaving your purse behind or having it stolen. Only bring one or two credit cards and a limited amount of cash with you, in the case that it should get lost or stolen.
- Put a wallet in an inside coat or front pants pocket.
- Try to find a shopping buddy. Having a buddy will help you avoid things like: forgetting where you parked, over loading yourself with packages to carry, and losing track of your shopping goals.
- Before you embark on your shopping journey set basic goals. For example: who you want to get presents for, the amount you want to spend, where you want to shop and how much time you are allowing to accomplish your goals.
- Shopping with kids? Teach them to go to a store clerk or security guard if you get separated.
- At home, do not leave empty boxes sitting by the curb for garbage pickup. Crush or cut up the boxes and put them in garbage bags so thieves will not know which house has attractive new electronics or expensive items.
Thefts

11/01 Outreach Assessment Center

Two employees reported that their vehicles were broken into. Both had the driver side widow broken out. One vehicle was ransacked and nothing was missing. The other a small bag was taken. Miami Police are investigating.

11/01 UM Hospital

Employee reported leaving her wallet on her desk on the 3rd floor of the East Building. When the employee returned the following morning the wallet was gone. Wallet contained a driver license and ATM card.

11/02 Dominion Towers

Employee left an iPhone in a 2nd floor restroom and discovered that it was gone when they returned two hours later.

11/02 Batchelor Childrens Research Institute

Employee reported that a round gas holding chamber last seen during the first week of October was missing from a 6th floor lab. Item valued at $100.00.

11/02 Bascom Palmer Eye Institute

Food court manager reported that a male took two packages of soup. The male was detained until Miami Police arrived. The manager refused to press charges.

11/03 UM Hospital

Cafeteria manager reported that an employee was stealing food. The employee was detained and suspended after admitting to taking food items and not paying for them. (Solved)

11/03 UM Hospital

Employee reported that a Dell flat screen computer monitor was taken from a South Building 1st floor department. Item valued at $300.00.

11/06 Fred Cowell Mall

Student reported that their bicycle locked to the bike rack across from the Calder Library was missing.

11/09 Rosenstiel Medical Science Building

Student reported that while the lights were off in a 5th floor auditorium his laptop computer was taken. The student reported later in the day that the computer was located. (Solved)

11/09 Rosenstiel Medical Science Building

Employee reported that a Dell laptop computer was taken from an unsecured 4th floor lab.

11/10 Clinical Research Building

Employee reported that a vase located in a 2nd floor break room was missing. Item valued at $5.00.

Security.med.miami.edu
11/16 **Batchelor Children’s Center**  
Employee reported that a package delivered by UPS to the 7th floor was discovered missing the following day.

11/18 **Mental Health Hospital Center**  
Administrator discovered that a secured 3rd floor suite was entered and a coffee maker, PDA and calculator had been taken. Items valued at $275.00. Miami Police are investigating.

11/19 **UM Hospital Employee Parking Lot**  
Employee reported that the passenger window of his vehicle had been broken out. A backpack containing a passport, two flash drives and clothing was taken. It was also discovered that the vehicle parked next to his had a broken window. It was not determined if anything was taken.

11/21 **UM Hospital**  
Patient in an East Building 7th floor room reported that his cell phone was missing. Item valued at $70.00.

11/21 **National Parkinson Foundation**  
Contractor reported that an electrical extension cord left in the east side parking area was missing.

11/23 **UM Hospital**  
Patient discovered that $60.00 cash was missing from their wallet when they were discharged from a 6th floor room.

11/28 **Sieron Building**  
Physician’s vehicle parked in the lot was broken into and a GPS device was taken.

11/29 **14th Street Garage**  
Investigation revealed that the cashier was taking cash parking payments. He was confronted and admitted to the thefts. The cashier, a contractor’s employee was terminated. Miami Police are investigating. (Solved)

**Assault**

10/08 **Magnetic Resonance Imaging**  
Manager attempting to photograph a car parked in a reserved spot was approached by the driver of the car who pushed the manager’s arms to prevent the taking of the photo.

**Burglary**

None
Vehicle Incidents

11/04 UM Hospital Parking Garage
Visitor waiting in vehicle at the entrance was struck by vehicle in front while backing up. There was minor damage and no injuries.

11/04 Hope Lodge
UM shuttle van damaged while attempting to exit the rear parking lot. There was minor damage and no injuries.

11/05 UM Hospital and Clinics Valet
Visitor reported that there was minor damage to the bumper of their car when it was returned by the valet.

11/09 15th Street Garage
Security notified of a vehicle fire on the 5th floor. Miami Fire responded and extinguished the fire which appeared to have originated under the hood. The employee’s vehicle was extensively damaged. There were no injuries.

11/12 Batchelor Children’s Center
Delivery truck backing out of the receiving area struck a light pole knocking it over. There were no injuries.

11/15 UM Hospital Parking Garage
Two employees involved in a minor accident on the 5th level while both were attempting to exit.

11/17 Northwest 15th and 10th Avenue
A student parked at a meter on the street discovered minor damage to the left front fender when they returned.

11/21 Bascom Palmer 17th Street Parking Lot
Physician reported finding damage to the driver side and passenger side door windows of his vehicle. The vehicle was not entered and there was nothing missing.

11/23 15th Street Garage
Employee reported that they accidentally pressed their accelerator pedal instead of the brake and struck the wall on the 5th floor causing minor damage to the car.

11/24 15th Street NW 9th Avenue
A patient parked on the street backed into a student’s vehicle causing minor damage to the left front fender.

11/30 UM Hospital West Building Parking Lot
Driver for a private healthcare company reported that there was minor damage to his company’s van left parked in the lot.
11/03 14th Street Garage
Employee notified security of a suspicious male on the 11th floor. Security located the male in the stairwell. Miami Police responded and arrested the male.

11/03 Viciana Building
Security called regarding a male removing cardboard from the dumpster. The male was contacted and escorted off the property.

11/07 Professional Arts Center
Security discovered a male sleeping near the front of the building. The male was escorted away from the property.

11/07 15th Street Garage
Security received a report of a male pulling on the card reader at the entrance. The male was contacted and escorted away from the building.

11/09 Fred Cowell Mall
Security observed a male panhandling near the west side of the Calder Library. The male was contacted and escorted off the property.

11/16 Sylvester Cancer Center
Security observed a male loitering around the valet area. The male was contacted and escorted off the property.

11/22 Dominion Towers
Security notified of a suspicious male loitering on the 9th floor. The male was contacted in the lobby and after determination that he had no business in the building he was escorted off the property.

11/24 Park Plaza East
Security discovered a male sleeping at the entrance to a ground office. The male was escorted away from the building.

11/28 Sylvester Cancer Center
Security advised of a male sleeping on the southeast corner of the building. The male was contacted and left the area.

11/30 Diabetes Research Institute
Security called regarding a suspicious male on the east side sidewalk. Security observed a male pushing a shopping cart who continued walking off the property.

11/30 Bascom Palmer Eye Institute
Optical Shop employee called regarding a suspicious female in the shop who may have taken eyeglass frames in the past. Security contacted the individual and escorted them 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 November, security officers provided 128 escorts with an average waiting time of 3:49 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.