

University of Miami Medical Campus Crime Summary Report January 2011

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

Fraudulent Notification Deceives Consumers Out of Thousands of Dollars

THE FBI CONTINUES TO RECEIVE REPORTS OF LETTERS AND E-MAILS BEING DISTRIBUTED PURSUANT TO PRIZE SWEEPSTAKES OR LOTTERY SCHEMES. THESE SCHEMES USE COUNTERFEIT CHECKS THAT BEAR LEGITIMATE-LOOKING LOGOS OF VARIOUS FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS TO FOOL VICTIMS INTO SENDING MONEY TO THE FRAUDSTERS.

FRAUDSTERS TELL VICTIMS THEY WON A SWEEPSTAKES OR LOTTERY, BUT TO RECEIVE A LUMP SUM PAYOUT, THEY MUST PAY THE TAXES AND PROCESSING FEES UPFRONT. FRAUDSTERS DIRECT INDIVIDUALS TO CALL A TELEPHONE NUMBER TO INITIATE A LETTER OF INSTRUCTIONS. THE LETTER ALLEGES THAT THE VICTIM MAY ELECT TO TAKE AN ADVANCE ON THE WINNINGS TO MAKE THE REQUIRED UPFRONT PAYMENT. THE LETTER INCLUDES A CHECK IN THE AMOUNT OF THE ALLEGED TAXES AND FEES, ALONG WITH PROCESSING INSTRUCTIONS. ULTIMATELY, VICTIMS BELIEVE THEY ARE USING THE ADVANCE TO MAKE THE REQUIRED UPFRONT PAYMENT, BUT IN REALITY THEY ARE FALLING PREY TO THE SCHEME.

THE VICTIM DEPOSITS THE CHECK INTO THEIR OWN BANK, WHICH CREDITS THE ACCOUNT FOR THE AMOUNT OF THE CHECK BEFORE THE CHECK CLEARS. THE VICTIM IMMEDIATELY WITHDRAWS THE MONEY AND WIRES IT TO THE FRAUDSTERS. AFTERWARDS, THE CHECK PROVES TO BE COUNTERFEIT AND THE BANK PULLS THE RESPECTIVE FUNDS FROM THE VICTIM'S ACCOUNT, LEAVING THE VICTIM LIABLE FOR THE AMOUNT OF THE COUNTERFEIT CHECK PLUS ANY ADDITIONAL FEES THE BANK MAY CHARGE.

PERSONS MAY FALL VICTIM TO THIS SCHEME DUE TO THE ALLURE OF EASY MONEY AND THE APPARENT LEGITIMACY OF THE CHECK THE FRAUDSTERS INCLUDE IN THE LETTER OF INSTRUCTION. THE ALLEGED CASH PRIZES AND LOCATIONS OF THE FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS VARY.

TIPS TO AVOID BEING SCAMMED:

- **A FEDERAL STATUTE PROHIBITS MAILING LOTTERY TICKETS, ADVERTISEMENTS, OR PAYMENTS TO PURCHASE TICKETS IN A FOREIGN LOTTERY.**
- **BE LEERY IF YOU DO NOT REMEMBER ENTERING A LOTTERY OR SWEEPSTAKES.**
- **BEWARE OF LOTTERIES OR SWEEPSTAKES THAT CHARGE A FEE PRIOR TO DELIVERING YOUR PRIZE.**
- **BE WARY OF DEMANDS TO SEND ADDITIONAL MONEY AS A REQUIREMENT TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR FUTURE WINNINGS.**

Thefts

01/03 UM Hospital

Contractor reported that a laptop computer case he placed on a table in the main lobby was taken. Security video revealed that a male picked up the case and exited the building. The case contained a video recorder and work related tools. The items were valued at \$550.00.

01/03 Clinical Research Building

Employee reported that a change purse and wallet were missing from an unsecured 9th floor office. The wallet contained a driver license, credit cards and \$5.00 cash.

01/03 Diabetes Research Institute

Unicco supervisor reported that a hedge trimmer was missing from a storage area. Item valued at \$400.00.

01/05 UM Hospital Parking Garage

Visitor reported that their vehicle was broken into while parked on the 7th level. A wallet containing \$120.00 cash and credit cards along with a garage door opener and CD's were taken.

01/05 Dominion Garage

Employee reported damage to the driver's side door lock of his vehicle parked on the 4th level. Both drivers' side windows were down. It was not determined what was missing.

01/05 Dominion Garage Building

Contractor left a cell phone scanner on the outside table at the Subway restaurant and when he realized it and returned it was gone. Item valued at \$2,000.00.

01/05 UM Hospital

Transportation van driver reported that she left a personal bag on the van while she left the vehicle at the East Building main entrance. The driver returned to find the vehicle had been moved and \$20.00 cash was missing from the bag.

01/05 Calder Library

Student reported that he discovered that his iPhone was missing when he returned home from visiting the library. On 01/07 the student reported that he located the phone. (Solved)

01/06 UM Hospital

Visitor reported that an iPod was missing from her vehicle when returned by the valet.

01/06 Gables One Tower

Employee reported that her iPhone left unsecured on her desk was missing.

01/10 Fred Cowell Mall

Security observed a male taking a headlight off a bicycle locked to the rack on the west side of the Biomedical Research Building. The male was contacted and the light was recovered. Miami Police responded but the male was not arrested. (Solved)

01/10 Bascom Palmer Eye Institute

Administrator reported that a camera valued at \$13,000.00 was missing from new optical machine delivered 12/13/10 and being assembled on the ground floor. Security investigator discovered that the camera was left in a cardboard box that was waiting for disposal. (Solved)

01/10 UM Hospital

Patient reported that \$80.00 cash was missing from his bag in a 7th floor room.

01/11 1390 NW 17th Avenue

Contractor reported that his vehicle was broken into while parked at the construction site. Power and hand tools were taken.

01/12 Sylvester Cancer Center

Employee reported that a computer privacy screen was missing from a 2nd floor department. Item valued at \$200.00.

01/14 UM Hospital Parking Garage

Vendor reported that their vehicle was broken into while parked on the 4th level. There were no signs of forced entry. Clothing items valued at \$12,700.00 were taken.

01/15 UM Hospital and Clinics

Contractor reported that their truck parked in the receiving area was broken into. Power tools and a bucket full of cooper fittings were missing.

01/19 UM Hospital

A physician reported that a digital camera was missing from the overhead cabinet in his officer on the 4th floor of the East Building. Item valued at \$1,000.00.

01/19 UM Hospital

Physician reported that a digital camera was missing from an unsecured office on the 4th floor of the East Building. Item valued at \$400.00.

01/21 Bascom Palmer Eye Institute

Employee reported that 6 chairs from several 3rd floor exam rooms. On 01/25 the security investigator located the chairs. (Solved)

01/24 Sylvester Cancer Center

Employee reported that a makeup bag left in an unsecured desk drawer was missing. Item valued at \$50.00.

01/26 Northwest 15th Street and 9th Avenue

Employee reported that a license tag was missing from a UM truck parked in the surface parking lot.

01/26 UM Hospital

Administrator discovered that 12 Blackberry cell phones and a wireless keyboard were missing from a 4th floor conference room secured storage area.

01/31 Dominion Towers

Unicco supervisor reported that a wet/dry vacuum cleaner was left on the 1st floor on 01/28 and was missing. Item valued at \$350.00.

01/31 UM Hospital

Administrator reported that her wallet was missing from an unlocked drawer in an unlocked office on the 4th floor of the East Building. Wallet contained \$80.00 cash, credit cards and identification.

Assault

None

Burglary

None

Vehicle Incidents

01/12 Hope Lodge

Contractor's truck struck the card access reader pole at the entrance to the rear parking area, causing minor damage.

01/19 15th Street Garage

Employee struck a column on the 8th floor causing minor damage.

01/26 Sylvester Cancer Center

Visitor reported that there was minor damage to the left side wheel when it was returned by the valet.

Trespassers

01/04 Gautier Building

Physical Plant staff reported a suspicious male wandering around in the building. Security was unable to locate the individual.

01/04 Professional Arts Center

Security discovered two males selling candy on the 6th floor. The individuals were escorted off the property.

01/05 Biomedical Research Building

Security notified of a male sleeping on the east side curb. The male was contacted and asked to leave the area.

01/06 Papanicolaou Building

Security discovered a male sleeping on the northwest side of the building. The male was escorted off the property.

01/14 Bascom Palmer Eye Institute

Security observed a male in the Retter Food Court loitering around the vending machines. The male was contacted and escorted out of the building.

01/15 Diabetes Research Institute

Employee reported that a male approached their car in the southeast drive way and slapped the driver's window. When the employee reached for their cell phone the male walked away. Security could not locate the individual.

01/26 Sylvester Cancer Center

Employee reported that a male gathered up all the muffins put out for patients in a 1st floor waiting area then ran out of the area. Security was unable to locate the individual.

01/31 UM Hospital and Clinics

Security observed two suspicious males enter and proceed to get coffee from the 2nd floor waiting area. The males were contacted and it was determined they were not patients and escorted out of the building.

01/31 Mailman Center Debbie School

Security observed a suspicious male loitering around the main entrance. The male was contacted and escorted off the property.

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 January, security officers provided 99 escorts with an average waiting time of 3:22 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.