

University of Miami Medical Campus Crime Summary Report March 2011

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

Abusive Income Tax Return Preparer

This is a significant problem for both the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and the taxpaying public. Abusive return preparers frequently prepare bad returns for large numbers of taxpayers who, at best, are stuck with paying additional taxes and interest and at worse, depending on culpability, are subject to penalties and maybe even criminal prosecution.

Taxpayers should be very careful when choosing a return preparer. You should be as careful as you would in choosing a doctor or a lawyer. While most preparers provide excellent service to their clients, a few unscrupulous return preparers file false and fraudulent tax returns and ultimately defraud their clients. It is important to know that even if someone else prepares your return, you are ultimately responsible for all the information on the tax return.

Helpful Hints when choosing a Tax Return Preparer

- Taxpayers are responsible for the accuracy of all entries made on their tax returns, which include related schedules, forms and supporting documentation. This remains true whether the return is prepared by the taxpayer or by a return preparer.
- Be careful in selecting the tax professional who will prepare your return. Some basic tips and guidelines to assist taxpayers in choosing a reputable tax professional are:
 - Avoid return preparers who claim they can obtain larger refunds than other preparers.
 - Avoid preparers who base their fee on a percentage of the amount of the refund.
 - Use a reputable tax professional that signs your tax return and provides you with a copy for your records.
 - Consider whether the individual or firm will be around to answer questions about the preparation of your tax return, months, even years, after the return has been filed.
 - Never sign a blank tax form.
 - Ask questions. Do you know anyone who has used the tax professional? Were they satisfied with the service they received?
- Tax Evasion is a crime, a felony, punishable up to 5 years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine.

When in doubt, check it out! Taxpayers hearing claims from preparers offering larger refunds than other preparers are encouraged to check it out with a trusted tax professional or the IRS before getting involved.

Thefts

03/01 Diabetes Research Institute

Administrator reported that they discovered a credit card holder, checkbook, wallet and sunglasses were missing from a purse left under the desk in an unsecured 6th floor office.

03/01 Bascom Palmer Eye Institute

Employee reported that she left her Samsung Memoir cell phone in an employee's lounge near the sink. She returned shortly after and the item was gone.

03/04 Hope Lodge

Employee reported that a Lenovo laptop computer and docking station was missing after being stored in a 3rd floor room since August.

03/07 UM Hospital

The daughter of a patient in an 8th floor room reported that her Dell netbook computer was missing after leaving it unattended in the room.

03/08 14th Street Garage

Employee reported that she discovered the driver's side window broken out on her vehicle parked on the 7th floor. A GPS device and iPad were taken.

03/08 14th Street Garage

Employee discovered the passenger window broken out on her vehicle parked on the 3rd floor. A GPS device, digital camera and sunglasses were taken.

03/09 Biomedical Research Building

Employee reported that a USB printer cable was missing from a computer in a 7th floor lab. Item valued at \$10.00.

03/10 Lois Pope Life Center

Researcher reported that after returning from a trip they discovered that the speakers were missing from their computer in a 1st floor office.

03/10 Biomedical Research Building

Employee reported that 4 small containers of cream cheese were missing from a refrigerator in an unsecured 2nd floor break room.

03/15 UM Hospital and Clinics

Morrison's Food Service employee reported that \$640.00 in cash was missing from the safe. Security video showed an employee entering the area after closing on 03/12. Miami Police are investigating.

03/15 Fred Cowell Mall

Security observed a suspicious male riding a bicycle up to the bike rack across from the Calder Library. After observing the male remove a seat from a bicycle he was detained for Miami Police who placed him under arrest. (Solved)

03/16 UM Hospital and Clinics

A patient reported that they left their iPhone 4 in the 4th floor registration area. When they returned the item could not be located. Item valued at \$400.00.

03/18 Kendall Medical Center

Patient reported a missing briefcase and it was discovered a male removed the item from the trunk of the patient's car parked in the lot. Miami-Dade Police are investigating.

03/20 Bascom Palmer Eye Institute

The son of a patient reported that his Sony digital camera was missing from a 5th floor recovery room. Security video showed the reporter leaving the hospital with the camera in a holder on his belt. (Solved)

03/21 UM Hospital Parking Garage

Security discovered an employee's Infiniti M35 parked on the 5th floor with the driver's side window broken. A front headlight and the grill were also discovered missing.

Another employee's vehicle, BMW was also discovered broken into and a duffle bag containing a purse, checkbook and jewelry was missing.

Miami Police are investigating.

03/24 UM Hospital

Patient reported that their Motorola cell phone was missing from their 12th floor room.

03/25 Magnetic Resonance Imaging

Security contacted a visitor who was looking for their Blackberry phone in the parking lot. The item was lost during his visit to the building. On 03/30 the visitor reported that they located the phone. (Solved)

03/27 UM Hospital

Patient reported that his reading glasses were missing from their 6th floor room. He noticed they were missing after returning from an examination. Item valued at \$200.00.

03/27 UM Hospital and Clinics

Patient reported that their Samsung cell phone was missing from their 2nd floor room.

03/28 Elliot Building

Administrator reported that a desktop computer reported missing from a 2nd floor office on 02/02 was located. (Solved)

03/29 22nd Street Warehouse

Manager reported that a drainage grate cover was missing from a stack of covers the parking lot.

03/30 [UM Hospital](#)

Administrator reported that a tray of surgical instruments was missing from the 3rd floor surgery area. Items valued at \$14,000.00. The items were located on 03/31. (Solved)

03/31 [Gables One Tower](#)

Employee reported that an iPhone G4 left unsecured on a desk on the 8th floor was missing. Item valued at \$400.00.

Assault

None

Burglary

None

Vehicle Incidents

03/01 [Dominion Garage](#)

Employee reported discovering damage to the bumper of their car which had been parked on the 4th level of the garage during the day.

03/01 [UM Hospital and Clinics Valet](#)

Valet employee driving a visitor's vehicle struck the curb edge causing the left front tire to flatten.

03/02 [15th Street Garage](#)

Employee travelling up to the 3rd floor was struck by another employee making a turn. There was minor damage and no injuries.

03/07 [17th Street NW 9th Avenue](#)

Valet employee driving a Bascom Palmer Eye Institute visitor's vehicle was struck in the rear by another vehicle causing minor damage.

03/10 [UM Hospital and Clinics Valet](#)

During a sudden rain storm an umbrella flew off a picnic table and struck the rear window of a visitor's car causing a crack.

03/17 [UM Hospital Employee Parking Lot](#)

Security discovered an employee's vehicle with the front passenger window broken out. There was nothing missing from the vehicle.

03/21 [Professional Arts Center](#)

A vehicle caught fire on NW 14th Street near 12th Avenue. Miami Fire responded and extinguished the flames.

03/31 [Sylvester Cancer Center Deerfield Beach](#)

Patient trying to park struck the rear driver's side door of a parked vehicle.

03/31 **14th Street Garage**

A patient backed into an employee's vehicle on the 1st floor causing minor damage.

Trespassers

03/01 **UM Hospital**

Security made contact with a male on the 1st floor after he pulled a fire alarm. The male, from France, thought it would allow him to open an exit door. Miami Police responded and checked out the male who was allowed to leave.

03/01 **National Parkinson Foundation**

Manager reported that a male was interfering with vehicles on the roadway on the south side of the building. Security contacted the male. Miami Police responded and took the male into custody.

03/01 **Biomedical Research Building**

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

03/08 **Diabetes Research Institute**

A known trespasser entered the building by following a staff member. When contacted by security he advised he had an appointment. The individual had attempted to enter other campus buildings earlier in the day. Miami Police resounded and the individual was escorted off the property.

03/18 **Dominion Garage**

Security observed a suspicious male sitting on a bicycle on the southwest side of the building. The male was contacted and appeared to be intoxicated. He was escorted away from the area.

03/27 **Biomedical Research Building**

Security alerted to a suspicious male sleeping in the patio area. The male was contacted and escorted off the property.

03/28 **UM Hospital**

Security alerted to a suspicious male loitering in the area of the Emergency Room. The male was contacted and escorted off the property.

03/29 **15th Street Garage**

Security observed a suspicious male loitering on the northwest side of the building. The male was escorted away from the property.

03/30 **Bascom Palmer Eye Institute**

Security called to the 6th floor regarding two suspicious males loitering in the lobby area. The males were contacted and escorted out of the building.

03/30 **Sylvester Cancer Center**

Security discovered two suspicious males on the 2nd floor and they were escorted out of the building.

03/31 UM Hospital and Clinics

Patient advised of a male soliciting for money near the lobby entrance. The male was contacted and escorted away from 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 March, security officers provided 74 escorts with an average waiting time of 4:19 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.