

# **University of Miami Medical Campus Crime Summary Report November 2011**

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

### **Holiday Shopping Mall Safety Tips**

The holiday shopping season is here and millions of people will be heading to shopping malls focused on finding the perfect gifts, but crime isn't taking a holiday. Police departments report increased calls during the holiday season when shoppers tend to think less about holiday shopping mall safety and more about buying presents.

Shopping mall safety is especially important this holiday season when malls are more vulnerable to violent crime. While it's never possible to completely eliminate the risk of violence, being aware of your surroundings and choosing to shop at malls that take security seriously are two important things you can do to help protect yourself and your family against violence while shopping this year.

The following tips will help make shopping at the mall safer for you and your family this holiday season:

- **Park in a well-lit area as close to your destination as possible. Parking lots and structures are typically the most dangerous places at the mall. If you are shopping alone and feel uncomfortable walking to your car at night, ask mall security officers for an escort. Consider valet parking during the holiday season when many malls offer free or reduced price valet parking. Look for security cameras and try to park near them. Also, opt for walkways leading to malls and parking lots that have security cameras installed.**
- **Choose to do your holiday shopping at malls that take security seriously. Shopping destinations with regular mall security patrols and visible surveillance cameras provide an added layer of security and a deterrent to criminals.**
- **Avoid using restrooms that are tucked away in a back area of a mall or store department. If you can, find a restroom near the mall's food court or other well-trafficked area and always accompany your child.**
- **Don't overload yourself with packages. Thieves are always on the lookout for people who might be distracted, keep track of your packages and try to stay off your cell phone. Hold your purse close to your body or use a front pocket if carrying a wallet.**
- **Always know where the closest exits are located. In case of a fire or other emergency, make sure you can find the nearest exits and remember to avoid using elevators in an emergency.**
- **Take extra care when returning to your car. If you notice anyone suspicious in the parking area you can use your keys as a weapon. If needed, you can also use your car's alarm system by pushing the panic button on your alarm remote control or car horn to draw attention.**

Being extra vigilant this holiday season will help keep you from becoming a crime victim. Most importantly, remember to always trust your instincts and report any and all suspicious activity to shopping mall security officers or your local police.

# Thefts

## 11/02 Life Science and Technology Park

Employee reported that his Apple iPad was missing from an unsecured locker on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor. Item valued at \$500.00.

## 11/03 UM Hospital and Clinics

Employee reported that an aluminum camera tripod and a panoramic tripod head were missing from a ground floor storage room. Items valued at \$325.00.

## 11/04 UM Hospital and Clinics Parking Lot

Employee reported that two leaf blowers left in his personal pickup truck were taken. Items valued at \$300.00.

## 11/07 UM Hospital Parking Garage

Employee reported that his Kawasaki motorcycle parked on the 3<sup>rd</sup> level was taken. Miami Police are investigating.

## 11/9 UM Hospital

A vendor reported leaving his gold and diamond ring next to a sink in a 1<sup>st</sup> floor restroom. When he returned the item was gone.

## 11/9 Bascom Palmer Eye Institute

A patient left a bag containing a wallet, credit cards, identification and \$270.00 case on a chair located on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor. When the patient realized the bag was left behind and returned the bag was gone. Investigation found that two contractor's employees found the bag and took it out of the building. Their employer was notified and their UM IDs revoked. The information was forwarded to Miami Police. (Solved)

## 11/10 Life Science and Technology Park

Employee reported that their iPhone 4 was missing from a 1<sup>st</sup> floor locker room. Security investigator initiated an investigation and the item turned up under a sink in a restroom.

## 11/10 UM Hospital

Patient in an 11<sup>th</sup> floor room reported that his wallet was missing. The wallet contained an undetermined amount of cash.

## 11/14 Clinical Research Building

Employee reported that their wallet was missing from a back pack left of the back of a chair in an unsecured 11<sup>th</sup> floor office. The wallet contained credit cards and identification.

## 11/16 Bascom Palmer Eye Institute

Employee reported that their Samsung touch screen cell phone was taken from a 6<sup>th</sup> floor operating room. Item valued at \$249.00.

11/17 **UM Hospital and Clinics**

Manager reported that their purse was removed from a larger bag inside a file drawer in an unsecured 1<sup>st</sup> floor office. Purse contained credit cards and personal identification.

11/19 **Bascom Palmer Eye Institute**

A patient left their cell phone in a 1<sup>st</sup> floor waiting area and when they returned for it the phone was gone.

11/23 **UM Hospital**

A patient in an East Building 8<sup>th</sup> floor room reported that \$80.00 cash was missing from their purse. The purse was left unsecured while the patient was out for treatment.

11/23 **UM Hospital**

Patient in an East Building 8<sup>th</sup> floor room reported that their wallet containing a credit card and identification was missing from their room.

11/24 **Holtz Center JMH**

Employee reported that their purse was taken from their desk in an unsecured 7<sup>th</sup> floor office. The purse contained credit cards identification and \$70.00 cash. A suspicious male had been observed in the area and Miami-Dade Police are investigating.

11/28 **Clinical Research Building**

Manager reported that a small table from a 9<sup>th</sup> floor lobby was missing. The item was valued at \$300.00. The security investigator located the table on another floor. (Solved)

11/28 **Bascom Palmer Eye Institute**

An employee reported that their personal bag was taken by a patient from a 2<sup>nd</sup> floor exam room. Miami Police are investigating.

## **Assault**

11/05 **15<sup>th</sup> Street Garage**

A vehicle washing service employee was engaged in an argument, on the west side of the building, with his former employee who stuck him in the face and pushed him. There were no injuries.

11/21 **UM Hospital**

Former patient reported that on 11/09 or 11/10 they were assaulted by an employee in a 1<sup>st</sup> floor treatment area.

## **Burglary**

None

# Vehicle Incidents

## 11/4 14<sup>th</sup> Street Garage

Employee discovered a substantial dent on the left rear bumper of their vehicle that was parked on the 11<sup>th</sup> level.

## 11/10 Northwest 14<sup>th</sup> Street and 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue

A student driving on the roadway was struck by a Miami Fire vehicle. There was minor damage and no injuries.

## 11/11 UM Hospital Employee Parking Lot

Employee discovered that the windshield of their vehicle appeared to have been struck by a rock.

## 11/16 15<sup>th</sup> Street Garage

Employee discovered a dent on the right side their vehicle left parked on the 9<sup>th</sup> level.

## 11/17 Dominion Garage

Unicco employee discovered damage to the left rear of their vehicle while it was parked in the tenant parking area.

## 11/22 14<sup>th</sup> Street Garage

Employee reported finding a dent on the driver's side door. The vehicle was parked on the 1<sup>st</sup> level.

## 11/23 Dominion Garage

An employee's vehicle parked on the 14<sup>th</sup> Terrace side of the building was struck by an unsecured tail gate of a landscaping truck. There was substantial damage to the unoccupied vehicle.

## 11/25 UM Hospital and Clinics

A visitor reported that a dent was discovered on the front left of their vehicle when they returned home. The vehicle had been left with the valet.

## 11/30 14<sup>th</sup> Street Garage

Employee driving into the garage was struck by a visitor who was backing up. There was minor damage and no injuries.

# Trespassers

## 11/10 Fred Cowell Mall

Security observed two males loitering around the bike rack across from the Calder Library. The males were contacted and escorted off the property.

## 11/10 Life Science and Technology Park

Security discovered a male on the east side of the building attempting to find a place to spend the night. The male was contacted and escorted off the property.

11/10 **Schoninger Research Quadrangle**

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

11/17 **Hope Lodge**

Security discovered a male sitting on the northwest corner of the building in the early morning hours. The male was escorted off the property.

11/21 **UM Hospital and Clinics**

Security alerted to a suspicious male loitering in the cafeteria. When contacted the male became upset and left 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 164 escorts with an average waiting time of 3:29 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.