

University of Miami

Medical Campus

Crime Summary Report

September 2012

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

CAN YOU RECOGNIZE A STAGED TRAFFIC CRASH?

The great majority of traffic crashes are unintentional, but there are some committed purposely. Criminals see staged crashes as an easy way to obtain money from insurance companies. They use paid witnesses, unethical attorneys and corrupt medical providers to promote and gain from the fraud.

Basic schemes are:

Swoop and Squat: The driver of Vehicle 1, who is in on the scheme, purposely drives a short distance in front of an innocent driver, when the driver of Vehicle 2, also in on the scheme, suddenly swoops in front of Vehicle 1. The driver of Vehicle 1 hits his brakes and causes a rear-end collision with the victim behind him.

Drive Down: When a driver is trying to merge into traffic, a scheming driver slows down and waves the victim forward. Once the victim proceeds, the schemer crashes into the victim's vehicle and denies to law enforcement that he waved the other driver through and blames the crash on the other driver.

Panic Stop: The scheming driver of a vehicle drives in front of a victim. An observer in the schemer's vehicle waits for the victim to take his eyes off the road, for example to text or talk to a passenger, then signals the driver to slam the brakes to create a rear-end collision.

Tips to help drivers avoid a staged crash:

- Never tailgate.
- Call law enforcement to a crash scene.
- Use a camera to document any crash damage and the number of passengers in other vehicles.
- Avoid people who suddenly appear at a crash scene and try to direct you to doctors and attorneys.
- Be wary of physicians who insist you file a personal injury claim after a crash, especially if you are not hurt.
- Avoid tow trucks that arrive on the scene without anyone having called for service.
- If you are a witness of a crash, provide details to law enforcement officers.

Thefts

09/03 Professional Arts Center

Administrator reported that the petty cash box in a 7th floor clinic was missing. The perpetrator was identified as an employee. The money was recovered and the matter turned over to Human Resources. (Solved)

09/04 UM Hospital and Clinics

Employee reported that a bag containing a Metro PCS cell phone and \$20.00 cash was taken from their unlocked car parked at the receiving area.

09/05 Biomedical Research Building

Employee reported text books missing from a 6th floor work area.

09/06 14th Street Garage

Unicco employee found the passenger window broken out of their vehicle left on the 3rd level. A purse contained credit cards, debit card and a driver license.

09/06 UM Hospital

Patient in a 12th floor room reported that personal clothing, a credit card, \$200.00 cash, Samsung cell phone and prescription eyeglasses were missing after they were transported from another area.

09/07 UM Hospital

Gift Shop employee reported that a visitor walked out with a purse from a display. Item valued at \$50.00. Perpetrator was identified and Miami Police are investigating.

09/10 UM Hospital Parking Garage

A physician reported that the radio was missing from their Jeep vehicle left parked on the 3rd level. The perpetrator was identified and arrested 09/25. (Solved)

09/12 UM Hospital and Clinics

Physician reported that an extra telephone head set was missing from a 1st floor office.

09/13 UM Hospital Parking Garage

Visitor reported that someone entered their unlocked vehicle left on the 6th level and removed the radio. Item valued at \$400.00.

09/13 UM Hospital

A discharged Emergency Room patient reported they discovered their wallet missing after leaving the hospital.

09/13 Lois Pope Life Center

Employee in a 2nd floor office reported that a small purse containing a crystal stone was missing from their desk.

09/16 UM Hospital

A discharged JMH patient was accosted on NW 9th Avenue by a male in a vehicle. The patient ran into the campus and was again accosted by the male who struck him with a revolver and took a large amount of cash. Miami Police are investigating.

09/18 UM Hospital

Pharmacist in the West Building pharmacy observed a male remove a bottle of lotion from its box and put it in his pocket. Pharmacist confronted the male who returned the item.

09/19 UM Hospital Parking Garage

Employee observed a male attempting to break into a Jeep vehicle parked on the ground level. The male fled prior to security responding. Nothing was missing from the vehicle.

09/25 Life Science and Technology Park

Employee reported that two rolls of paper towels were missing from a 1st floor unsecured storage room. Items valued at \$60.00.

09/26 Diabetes Research Institute

A visitor reported that they left a Blackberry Tablet in a 1st floor exam room. When they returned the item was gone.

09/26 Wellness Center

Member reported that an iPhone and wallet containing credit cards was taken from an unsecured locker. Items valued at \$500.00.

09/27 Bascom Palmer Eye Institute

Employee reported that 4 Tonometer tips were missing from three 1st floor exam rooms.

09/28 Biomedical Research Building

An employee reported leaving a purse like carrying case containing a toothbrush, toothpaste and other hygiene items in an 8th floor rest room. When they returned the items were gone,

09/29 Bascom Palmer Eye Institute Patient Parking Lot

Employee reported that a Miami Heat license plate was missing from their vehicle left parked in the lot. Item valued at \$28.00.

09/30 UM Hospital Parking Garage

An employee reported finding a vehicle on the 5th floor with the passenger window broken out. The owner, a visitor, was located and advised a laptop computer, 3 defibrillators, 2 pacemakers and 3 thumb drives were missing. The items were valued at \$126,000.

Assault

09/06 Linda Ray Center

A parent reported that her husband punched her in the face after dropping off the children. There were no signs of injury. Miami Police responded and are investigating.

Burglary

None

Vehicle Incidents

09/02 Bascom Palmer Eye Institute

A vehicle on the entranced ramp backed into another vehicle causing minor damage.

09/11 Bascom Palmer Eye Institute Plantation

The transportation shuttle bus struck an awning on the west side of the building causing minor damage.

09/17 Sieron Building

A Unicco truck struck the awing over the entrance gate causing minor damage.

09/18 Park Plaza West

Employee discovered damage to the molding around the sun roof of their vehicle. There were also scratches. The vehicle had been parked on the 5th level.

09/19 UM Hospital

A driver impatient for the exit gate to open at the West Building parking lot backed up and struck a vehicle behind them causing minor damage.

09/21 UM Hospital Parking Garage

Visitor reported finding some stains on the driver side door and mirror of their vehicle left parked between the 2nd and 3rd level.

09/22 UM Hospital Parking Garage

Security discovered a vehicle on the 5th floor with the passenger window broken out. The owner was located and advised nothing was missing from the vehicle.

09/23 15th Street Garage

Employee backing on the 2nd floor struck another employee's vehicle causing minor damage.

09/23 Bascom Palmer Eye Institute Patient Parking Lot

Visitor attempting to enter the lot reported that the gate arm struck the top of their vehicle causing minor damage.

09/24 Sylvester Cancer Center Deerfield

Patient reported finding a key scratch on their vehicle left parked in the parking lot.

09/24 UM Hospital and Clinics

Miami Fire and Rescue truck caused minor damage to the intercom box at the entrance to the valet parking lot.

09/26 UM Hospital

Visitor reported discovering damage to their vehicle left parked in the West Building parking lot.

09/28 14th Street Garage

A visitor reported finding a dent on the driver's door of their vehicle left parked on the 5th floor.

Trespassers

09/08 Mailman Center for Child Development

Security discovered a suspicious male loitering near the emergency phone. The male was escorted off the property.

09/24 Bascom Palmer Eye Institute

Security alerted to a female on the 2nd floor being loud and disruptive. It was determined that the female had no business in the building and she was escorted out.

09/25 UM Hospital

Security observed a male panhandling on the southeast side of the East Building. The male was contacted and escorted off the property.

09/27 Schoninger Research Quadrangle

Security alerted to a male performing indecent stretching exercises near the fountain. The male was contacted and escorted off the property.

09/29 Bascom Palmer Eye Institute

Security alerted to a barefoot male that entered the kitchen area of the café in the food court. The male, who was hiding, had come from the Mental Health Center. Miami Police responded and took the male into custody.

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 September, security officers provided 163 escorts with an average waiting time of 4:49 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.