

# University of Miami Medical Campus Crime Summary Report September 2009

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

### **Myth: Thieves prefer to steal new cars**

**Fact:** It's the other way around. Statistics show that thieves actually prefer to steal older cars.

According to a 2008 National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) report, the top 10 most-stolen vehicles reported in 2007 were the '95 Honda Civic, '91 Honda Accord, '89 Toyota Camry, '97 Ford F-150 pickup, '94 Chevrolet C/K 1500 pickup, '94 Acura Integra, '04 Dodge Ram pickup, '94 Nissan Sentra, '88 Toyota pickup and '07 Toyota Corolla.

"The reason we see so many older vehicles on the list is because they are easier to steal," according to the National NICB. "Also, people are keeping their cars longer (in the faltering economy). That creates a good market for used parts. A lot of times, when they are stolen, they don't make it back on the street intact."

If you have an older vehicle and have dropped comprehensive coverage to save money, you are not covered for theft and do not qualify for rental car coverage. NICB's report reveals that thieves have different preferences from state to state. Crooks in California and Florida prefer imports like Hondas and Toyotas. Texas crooks select pickup trucks. Criminals in Illinois, Indiana and Michigan have a thing for domestics (Dodges and Fords).

### **Is Your Car Florida's 'Hottest?' Honda Civic Is Most Stolen Car In Florida**

**SOUTH FLORIDA --** Wondering what the hottest wheels in town are -- the ones most likely to get stolen in Florida? Well, we've got the list as compiled by the National Insurance Crime Bureau.

Did your car make it into the top ten? Here is the list:

1. Honda Civic
2. Honda Accord
3. Toyota Camry
4. Ford F150 Pickup
5. Dodge Ram Pickup
6. Nissan Altima
7. Dodge Caravan
8. Toyota Corolla
9. Nissan Maxima
10. Jeep Cherokee/Grand Cherokee

Remember there are ways you can protect your car, like making sure you don't leave your car unlocked. Some other tips include:

**Keys:** Don't leave them in the ignition. **Alarms:** They may be loud and annoying, but they work. **Locks:** That includes steering wheel locks and pedal locks. **Tracking Devices:** They can help find a stolen car hundreds of miles away. **Well-Lit Areas:** Park where there is plenty of light and a lot of foot traffic.

# Thefts

## 09/01 Kendall Medical Center

A UPS parcel was reported missing from a ground floor office. On 09/03 it was reported that the package was located. (Solved)

## 09/02 Sylvester Cancer Center

Employee reported that a key and a bottle of perfume were taken from a secured 2<sup>nd</sup> floor office.

## 09/03 Diabetes Research Institute

Physician reported that \$20.00 cash was missing from her purse left in a 1<sup>st</sup> floor office.

## 09/03 NE 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and 34<sup>th</sup> Street Research Offices

Contractor reported the theft of two drills from a 1<sup>st</sup> floor renovation project.

## 09/09 Dominion Garage

Employee of the Latin Café reported that a male took food items off the front counter and left without paying. The male was not located.

## 09/14 Clinical Research Building

Employee returning to her 15<sup>th</sup> floor office observed a male near her desk holding her wallet. When she asked what he was doing, he dropped the wallet and ran. There was \$8.00 cash missing from the wallet.

## 09/21 Bascom Palmer Eye Institute

Employee reported two computer keyboards and two mice were missing from a 2<sup>nd</sup> floor cubical.

## 09/24 Rosenstiel Medical Science Building

Unicco employee left 4 rugs on the east side of the building to dry and when he returned one was missing.

## 09/28 Medical Book Store

A male entered the store and took two digital voice recorders without paying for them. Items valued at \$80.00.

## 09/28 Bascom Palmer Eye Institute Optical Shop

A male took two eyeglass frames and left the store. The male was confronted by the store manager and returned the frames.

# Assault

None

# Burglary

None

# Vehicle Incidents

## 09/16 National Parkinson Foundation

Employee reported that someone struck his vehicle while it was parked in the lot causing minor damage to the right front bumper.

## 09/17 Park Plaza West

A Ford Explorer struck a Ford minivan on the north side of the building on Northwest 16<sup>th</sup> Street.

## 09/17 UM Hospital and Clinics

Visitor grazed another vehicle while attempting to exit the Valet Ramp.

## 09/18 14<sup>th</sup> Street Garage

Visitor struck another vehicle on the 5<sup>th</sup> level causing minor damage.

## 09/18 Sylvester Cancer Center

Visitor struck another vehicle on the Valet ramp causing minor damage.

# Trespassers

## 09/02 15<sup>th</sup> Street Garage

Security observed a suspicious male loitering in the area and he was escorted away from the property.

## 09/06 McKnight Vision Research Center

Security observed a known male trespasser on the north side of the building. The male was escorted off the property.

## 09/04 Dominion Towers

Security called regarding a female loitering in the lobby. The female left the building prior to the arrival of security.

## 09/11 Diabetes Research Institute

Employee reported that a suspicious male was loitering around the service elevators. Security contacted the male in the patient parking lot. Miami Police responded and after an interview he was issued a trespass warning.

## 09/16 Mailman Center

Employees reported that a male was yelling profanities at them as they approached the north side of the building. Security contacted the male across the street and issued a trespass warning.

## 09/17 Rosenstiel Medical Science Building

Security observed a male walking westbound harassing passersby. The male was escorted to intended destination the Metrorail Station.

## 09/18 Park Plaza East

Security called regarding a female sleeping in front of the entrance to a ground floor office. The female was escorted away from the office.

**09/23 Debbie School/Mailman Center**

Report of an unknown female in the west playground. The female was confronted by staff and left the area prior to arrival of security.

**09/24 Sylvester Cancer Center**

Security observed a suspicious male enter the lobby area. The male was escorted out of the building.

**09/25 Park Plaza East**

Security observed a female pulling on a locked door for a ground floor office. Female contacted and escorted away from the building.

**09/25 Park Plaza West**

A male was reported for soliciting money near a business in the building. The male was contacted and escorted out of the area.

**09/25 Edelman Building**

Security notified of a female sleeping in the construction site of the south side of the building. The female was contacted and escorted off the property.

**09/25 Mailman Center**

A male was reported to Security for harassing passersby on the north side of the building. The male was contacted and left the area.

## **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 243-6079 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 130 escorts with an average waiting time of 3:59 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.