

Upper Darby Township Police

Cell Phone Theft Prevention Tips

“Crime prevention is defined as the anticipation, recognition and appraisal of the crime risk and the initiation of some action to remove or reduce it.”



Upper Darby Township Police are proactive in their efforts to prevent crime and address those issues, which destroy the quality of life for the community. To that end though, the public must recognize that they too have a responsibility to assist the police, and without question are an integral part of the crime prevention process. Here are some tips you can use to protect yourself from becoming a victim, and become part of the eyes and ears of the police in your neighborhood.

Cell Phone Theft Prevention

1. Make a record of all your cell phone information and keep this in a safe place.
2. This information must include the following:
 - a) Your phone number.
 - b) Your email and password associated with the phone, to aid police in tracking.
 - c) The security code and any PIN code needed to unlock the phone.
 - d) The make and model, and any other identifying characteristics.
 - e) The IMEI number of the phone.
 - i. Most phones have a very simple key-in method to retrieve IMEI/MEID numbers:
 - ii. Enter a 5-digit string ***#06#** and the number will be displayed on your phone.
 - iii. This information can also be found under the settings “about” tab.
3. Engrave the phone with an identifier and record what the identifier is.
 - a) Consider placing it on the inside battery compartment as well as the exterior of the phone.
4. Install anti-theft applications and register your phone (for example: Find My iPhone).
5. Don't carry the phone in your hand when you don't need to. You are carrying around a \$500 piece of equipment that presents a significant reward for thieves, who are constantly looking for someone that presents a target.
6. Be aware of your surroundings, and don't make unnecessary calls that distract you or where you present any easy target (for example in large crowds). Be alert at all times.
7. Don't get “lost” in walking and texting, distraction makes you vulnerable. Thieves prey upon this.
8. If you become a victim, call 911 from the nearest safe location, make the report, and assist police with all of the above information, and description(s) of the subjects responsible for the crime.

Personal Safety

- While walking, present an alert and confident appearance; be aware of people and your surroundings.
 - Criminals consider you as a target if you appear intimidated or unaware of your surroundings.
- Walk near the curb facing traffic; and do not pass too close to shrubbery, dark doorways and other places of concealment.
- Avoid shortcuts and unfamiliar areas with little pedestrian or other traffic present.
- Grip carried items such as purses firmly, and avoid leaving them unattended or in a shopping cart. Thieves will distract you while a second thief walks off with your belongings.
- Become familiar with stores and gas stations that stay open late at night that can provide access to safety.
- Become familiar with locations of police stations and sub-station locations.
- Carry some type of personal alarm (whistle or electronic device), and at night carry a flashlight with you as well.
- Know that wearing earphones connected to portable radios, iPods, and other devices, as well as texting or talking on your cell phone can and will distract you, making you a potential target for criminals.
- Before you enter your vehicle look around, have your keys ready, and look inside to ensure your car is clear.
- Park in well lit areas, and look around as well before you exit your car after you park.

Being aware of your surroundings is essential. It tells would be criminals you are not an easy target. Most of all, NEVER HESITATE TO CALL 911 IF YOU SUSPECT POSSIBLE CRIMINAL ACTIVITY, that one call could be the difference in your or someone else's life.