



CRIME ALERT

On Campus

Posted Date: 09/16/2009

Incident:

The Department of Public Safety has received several reports of Bicycle Thefts from campus. These thefts have occurred at multiple racks over the past several weeks. In almost all incidents, the bicycle locks have been cut. Remember, only uniformed Public Safety Officers are authorized to remove locks from bicycles. If you notice anyone other than a Uniformed Public Safety Officer attempting to cut a bicycle lock, please contact The Department of Public Safety immediately at 202-885-3636.

If you have information relating to this incident, or witness suspicious activity, please call the Department of Public Safety at **202-885-3636** or **911** for the Metropolitan Police Department.

Preventing Bicycle Theft

- Always lock your bike: even in the garage, the apartment stairwell, or college dorm.
- Lock to a fixed, immovable object like a parking meter or permanent bike rack. Be careful not to lock to items that can be easily cut, broken or removed. Be careful that your bike cannot be lifted over the top of the object to which it is locked.
- Lock in a visible and well-lit area.
- When using a U-lock, position your bike frame and wheels so that you fill or take up as much of the open space within the U-portion of the lock as possible. The tighter the lock up, the harder it is for a thief to use tools to attack your lock.
- Always position a U-lock so that the keyway is facing down towards the ground. Don't position the lock close to the ground. This makes it easier for a thief to attack it.
- Always secure your components and accessories, especially quick-release components, with a secondary cable lock.
- Don't lock your bike to itself (i.e. put the lock through the wheel and frame only). Lock it to something. Otherwise, it can be easily lifted and carried away.
- Don't lock in the same location all the time. A thief may notice the pattern and target your bike.
- Don't lock to anything posted illegal. Check with area law enforcement agencies for local bike parking regulations.
- Always check your lock before leaving your bike to be sure you have secured it properly.
- For the greatest theft deterrence, use two locks such as a U-lock and a locking cable. The longer it takes a thief to get through your bike security, the less likely your bike will be stolen.
- If you would like a copy of this alert, please visit <http://www.american.edu/finance/publicsafety/crimealerts.cfm>

The American University Department of Public Safety (AUDPS) notifies the campus community when crimes are reported to AUDPS or the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) which the University believes represent a continuing threat to its students or employees, in a manner consistent with the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act. The University uses its best efforts to provide information that is both accurate and helpful, but community members should recognize that the University is able to relay information only as it is reported to AUDPS from MPD. Community members are encouraged to report external incidents to AUDPS to assist in the effective implementation of this program.

Emergency: 202-885-3636
www.american.edu/finance/dps