

Cell Phone Theft Prevention

A Message from the Minneapolis Police Department

Cell phone theft is a major problem in Minneapolis as well as the rest of the nation. Typically the thief will steal an unattended phone or snatch the phone from the users hand and run. The stolen phones are then sold on the black market. A cell phone's resale value can range from \$100 - \$300.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO REDUCE YOUR CHANCES OF BEING A VICTIM

- 📱 Using your phone in public makes you much more vulnerable to being robbed or assaulted. Pay attention to what's going on around you and who is near you.
- 📱 Keep your phone in your pocket, bag or in a phone pouch, not in your hand where someone can quickly grab it from you.
- 📱 Keep your phone close to you. Don't leave it on a table, desk or counter in a public place unattended – even for a few seconds.
- 📱 Use a password to protect your phone. It will make it more difficult for a thief to use your phone or access the information you have stored on it.
- 📱 Do not store any information on your phone that you wouldn't want others to have (e.g. bank and credit card online passwords, personal information, etc.).
- 📱 Your cell phone provider may disable the phone remotely if it's stolen or lost.
- 📱 Back up the information on your cell phone. Most cell phone companies offer backup assistance through their phone plans. You may be able to back up your phone data on you home computer as well.
- 📱 Download an "anti-theft" application. If your phone is lost or stolen you might be able to locate it, "wipe it" (i.e. remove the data from the phone) or make the phone unusable to the thief. Contact you cell phone provider for more detailed information.
- 📱 Keep a written record of any of your electronic device's serial numbers in a safe place. Make note of those numbers when filing a police report; they are crossed referenced with the Pawn System. FILE A REPORT either through 911 or 311.



For more information contact CPS Renee Allen Renee.allen@minneapolismn.gov

