

Crime Prevention Newsletter

Fort Worth, Texas

June 2007

iPod Muggings



Thieves are no longer stealing designer sneakers. They are committing iPod thefts, mainly targeting students, contributing to a significant rise in street crimes. Berkeley PD reported that virtually all iPod crimes they tracked

from November to mid-February had occurred within three blocks of schools. Muggings have been reported in the larger cities of Los Angeles, New York, and the Bay Area, on trains and sidewalks, and are now moving to smaller communities.

Police say that listeners, often lost in the music and oblivious to their surroundings, tend not to realize how attractive a casually protected high-tech device worth hundreds of dollars can be criminal. The listeners make themselves an easy target due to the fact that they are distracted and usually do not hear people approaching them.

Don't be a victim: Ways to reduce robbery risk:

- Be alert while wearing headphones. Keep the volume low enough to hear people approaching. Look behind you now and then. Pay attention to others around you.
- Replace the distinctive white ear buds with older headphones that suggest cheaper equipment.
- Don't walk or exercise alone at night with your iPod.
- If you think someone is watching or following you, go to a crowded place; ask for help and call police.

- Record the serial number of your equipment.
- Engrave identifying information on the back of the device.
- Consider buying an mp3 player armband which will allow your hands to be free and also allows the device to be more secure to your body than a waist clip.



Some people choose to wear their mp3 players, cell phones and PDAs clipped to their belts. Make the equipment less noticeable. Wear it under jackets, use armbands, or change out the signature white cords with old unidentifiable ones. Using the white headphones while in public is advertising that somewhere on your person is equipment valued at \$300 or greater. If it is an iPod, it can hold up to 10,000 or more songs, increasing the iPod's value.

Do not leave iPod's, cell phones, PDAs, or other valuable equipment unattended in public places, on desks at work, or in school lockers.



Report crimes, trespassers and suspicious activities to the ROCC at [800-832-5452](tel:800-832-5452).