



CRIME ADVISORY

OCEAN CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND



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For Immediate Release:

OCPD Reminds Citizens to Be Vigilant

With the 2008 holiday season behind us, the Ocean City Police Department would like to remind citizens that criminal activity during the winter months of 2009 is still an issue in the resort.

The OCPD reminds citizens and business owners to report suspicious persons and activity. "It's our job to investigate these types of circumstances and confirm or deny criminal activity. Citizens often don't call the police feeling as if they are bothering us or they don't think the issue will amount to anything, but it really does make a big difference if we are notified." Chief Bernadette DiPino.

The Ocean City community benefits tremendously from having several active neighborhood watch groups. These residents are very aware of what is going on in their neighborhoods and do not hesitate to communicate with the police.

The OCPD is reminding all residents, business owners and visitors of a potential significant increase in information-related crimes this winter season.

In 2008 the OCPD noted an increase in a more sophisticated and motivated pool of thieves. The amount of "how to" information about committing crimes using ill-gotten information is vast and criminals are constantly leveraging this information to perpetuate fraud.

Potential consequences of lost or stolen information should be assessed objectively. Consequences could include lost consumer confidence and sales, damaged reputation, civil lawsuits and fines to name a few.

January 7, 2009

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Quite often, citizens' hunches turn out to be valuable information to us. If you have information that you feel we should know, we encourage you to leave us e-mail. OCPD@ococcean.com



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To help protect them from the projected increase in fraud this season, the OCPD is urging businesses and residents to remain diligent and review the following recommendations.

- Increase employee training and awareness, specifically in how to spot and respond to bad checks, fake IDs, stolen credit cards, and anything that seems out of the ordinary.
- Destroy all documents that may contain confidential information instead of discarding in the trash or dumpster. Employ a paper shredder.
- Secure wireless networks. The notorious compromise of TJX systems involving more than 45 million credit card numbers was a wireless attack.
- Restrict access to Point-Of-Sale systems and back office spaces.
- Do not store any unneeded or prohibited (by law or regulation) confidential information.
- Patch computer systems and applications.
- Install and test security software and hardware.
- Review and comply with relevant laws and regulations

Information theft is not the only type of criminal activity to be weary of, these are a few simple steps residents and visitors can take to minimize their vulnerability to becoming a crime victim:

- Check to make certain all doors and windows to residents and hotel rooms are locked particularly if you are not there.
- Secure all valuable jewelry in either a locked box or room safe.
- Keep an accurate inventory of all your valuable items, including serial numbers, detailed descriptions of property, images or video of the valuable items as well as current values of the items.
- Lock your car doors at all times
- Not leave any items in open areas of your car - put them in the trunk.
- Remove GPS systems and other items of value from your car. Also remove the mounting bracket for the GPS unit, as this may attract a thief to your vehicle.

If you see suspicious activity at any time, please call OCPD at 410-723-6600. Monitor the activity and stay on the line with the dispatcher. Do not alert suspects, but rather act as eyes and ears until police arrive.

The OCPD's proactive community based initiatives are the best form of crime prevention by keeping citizens informed of illegal activities in their communities

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