



Crime Prevention News

March 2008



Spring Break '08 : Have Fun & Be Safe

Having fun during Spring Break should always be a top priority. You are creating happy memories that will be the inspiration for many tales to come. Following these few common sense safety tips will ensure that you and your friends return safely to share those stories. Crazy and reckless abandon are often present during Spring Break getaways, but it is always better to be safe than to be sorry. Safety precautions are not meant to be deterrents to enjoyment. They are simply intended to help ensure the absence of anything but fun, both while you are away, and when you return.

Before leaving:

- Secure your dorm room or apartment.
- Unplug all appliances.
- Make sure all windows are closed and locked.
- Leave a copy of your travel itinerary with someone back home.

Use the buddy system:

- There is safety in numbers and it is best to do things as a group. Try to have at least three members of your group with you at all times when leaving your hotel to frolic and have fun. Don't leave a friend behind. If you go together, leave together!

Drinking:

- If you are of legal drinking age and you do decide to drink, do so responsibly.
- 98% of spring breakers injured were intoxicated.
- Keep your drink in sight at all times. Leaving it unattended gives anyone the opportunity to slip something into your drink and take advantage of you.
- DO NOT DRINK AND DRIVE. Use a designated driver or choose public transportation.
- Drinking makes it easier for a person to become either the victim or the perpetrator of a sexual assault.

Traveling:

- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash. Traveler's checks are best. Leave credit cards & ATM cards locked in a secure place.
- Keep track of your baggage and personal belongings at all times.
- Lock your hotel door at all times.

The most important spring break safety tip is to use common sense. With these safety tips in mind, stay safe, and enjoy your sun-filled spring break!



“You Broke My Glasses” Scam On the Rise

An old scam, that continues to target people who are not paying attention to their surroundings while walking the streets, is on the rise. Con-artists often target individuals who are not paying attention to their surroundings. They brush up against the victim and drop a pair of glasses in front of them. The con-artist then accuses the victim of breaking the glasses, and demands money to replace them. The victim, thinking that he or she is at fault, gives in to the con-artist, handing over money.

The truth is the glasses were broken long ago and the con artist uses the same broken pair repeatedly. In a recently reported incident, a CU Student who was walking along Broadway, encountered a con-artist who tried to play this game on him. The student remembered hearing about a similar scenario during Public Safety's new student orientation, and informed the con-artist that he was going to call the police when he began to demand money. At that moment, the con-artist fled the area. Other tips on preventing this type of scam are: Always be alert while walking in the city. Keep your head up and maintain eye contact. Know where you are going. Plan your route before leaving. Call Public Safety right-away at **212-854-5555 on the MS Campus or 305-7979 at the Medical Center campus** if you observe suspicious persons conducting this type or similar types of scams.