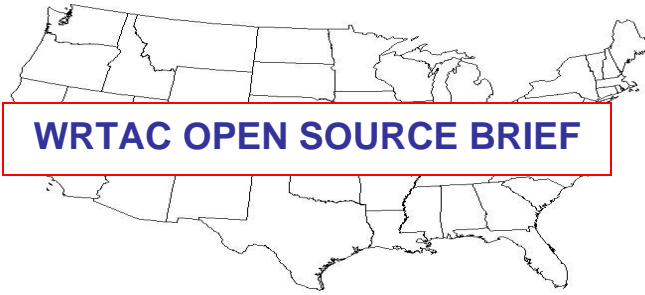


Washington Regional
Threat and Analysis Center



Submit a Tip

In an Emergency Call 9-1-1

1-877-YOU-WATCH
1-888-919-CRIME

Text Tip: 50411

wrtac@dc.gov or SAR@dc.gov

Scope: Provide the private sector, our partner agencies, and local jurisdictions with current open source information relating to terrorism, homeland security, critical incident response and public safety.

Re-distribution is encouraged.

April 30, 2010
2010-163

The WRTAC Open Source Brief is archived in the Homeland Security Digital Library and on the InfraGard member website.



'ICE' (In Case of Emergency) Cell Phone Plan Helps Rescuers

To its owner, the cell phone is an indispensable lifeline at times of crisis, reuniting loved ones separated by unforeseen events at the touch of a button. But for members of the emergency services making life-and-death decisions, the cell poses a conundrum: Which of the numbers stored in its electronic address book should they call to reach a casualty's next of kin? A simple initiative, conceived by a paramedic in Britain, has gained momentum on both sides of the Atlantic to try to solve this problem. **Cell users are being urged to put the acronym ICE -- "in case of emergency" -- before the names of the people they want to designate as next of kin in their cell address book, creating entries such as "ICE -- Dad" or "ICE -- Alison."** Paramedics, police and firefighters often waste valuable time trying to figure out which name in a cell phone to call when disaster strikes, according to current and retired members of the emergency services, who said they must look through wallets for clues, or scroll through cell address books and

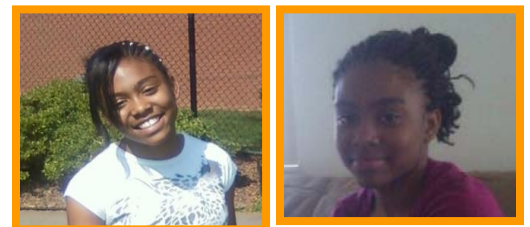


guess. Many people identify their spouse by name in their cell, making them indistinguishable from other entries. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/07/17/AR2005071700879.html>

Missing Montgomery Village Girl

(NCR BOLO)

If you have seen this 13-year-old girl Montgomery County Police would like you to contact them. Breyana Allen was last seen on Tuesday, March 27, 2010 at her house in the 10100 block of Little Pond Place in Montgomery Village. Police say at this time they see no evidence of foul play, but there is "Concern for her general welfare due to her age." **Breyana is described as a black female, 5'2" tall, weighing 115 pounds. If you have any information on Breyana's whereabouts, please contact the Montgomery County Police Family Crimes Division at 240-773-5400 or the police non-emergency number at 301-279-8000. Callers may remain anonymous.**



<http://www.wusa9.com/news/local/story.aspx?storyid=100684&catid=189>

7 Hospitalized After Exposure to Carbon Monoxide

A Baltimore County fire official says seven people have been taken to hospitals after they were exposed to carbon monoxide at three Middle River homes. Fire department crews were called to the 2200 block of Southorn Road around 6:15 a.m. Friday and remain on the scene. Five patients are being taken to the hyperbaric chamber at University of Maryland Hospital and two were taken to Franklin Square Hospital Center. Armacost says preliminary reports indicate that a portable generator caused a buildup of carbon monoxide gas.

(Public Health)



<http://www.wjla.com/news/stories/0410/731184.html>

WRTAC Analyst Note: Besides having a professional come into your home to check your appliances, a carbon monoxide detector can be used to keep a constant watch over the levels of carbon monoxide in the home throughout the year. Low levels of carbon monoxide poisoning can be confused with flu symptoms, food poisoning or other illnesses and can have a long term health risk if left unattended. Some of the symptoms are the following.

- Shortness of breath
- Mild nausea
- Mild headaches

Moderate levels of CO exposure can cause death if the following symptoms persist for a long measure of time.

- Headaches
- Dizziness
- Nausea
- Light-headedness

High levels of CO can be fatal causing death within minutes. There are immediate measures you can take to help those suffering from carbon monoxide poisoning.

- Get the victim into fresh air immediately.
- If you can not get the people out of the house, then open all windows and doors. Any combustion appliances should be turned off.
- Take those who were subjected to carbon monoxide to a hospital emergency room as quickly as possible. A simple blood test will be able to determine if carbon monoxide poisoning has occurred.

Police Look for Vehicle in Silver Spring Shooting

Montgomery County police have confirmed they are investigating a shooting in the 15600 block of Good Hope Road in Silver Spring. Officials say one victim has been transported to a local hospital with serious but non-life threatening injuries. **Police are looking for a champagne colored Ford Taurus with Maryland plates 5FVC01. Anyone with information about this incident is asked to call police at 301-279-8000.**

(NCR BOLO)



<http://www.wjla.com/news/stories/0410/731187.html>

Flat Screen Thieves Hammer Fairfax County

(NCR RFI)

What would you do if you saw someone leaving your neighbor's home with a big screen TV under a blanket? Fairfax County Police are urging you to call them right away. They say flat screen televisions are the crooks' favorite target. Burglars have hit 17 homes in the last two months. The thieves are so brazen, some neighbors have simply watched as they walked out with big screen TVs, assuming the crooks are part of a moving company. The burglars have hammered two neighborhoods just off the Beltway. They've hit a condo and apartment complex near South Van Dorn and Franconia Rd, breaking into as



many as three homes in a single day. They've also targeted condos in Tysons Corner. They'll also take a PS3, a Wii, or an Xbox gaming system. And they'll snag your laptop too. **Police say the burglars are using credit cards or pry bars to jimmy open deadbolts that have failed to lock into place. Master Police Office Alice Eggers suggested people open their door, throw the deadbolt, and then wriggle it to make sure it's fully engaged. "What I mean by fully engaged is when you turn that single cylinder lock, it needs to lock out completely, and you need to hear it click."** Police are urging people to get to know their neighbors, so if they see movers clearing out their home, they'll know if it's legit. **Police say the burglars also stole a couple of semi-automatic handguns, and that makes authorities even more concerned about what would happen if someone stumbled into the crooks mid-burglary. Police are hoping someone has a tip and will make the call to their non-emergency line at 703-691-2131.** <http://www.wusa9.com/news/local/story.aspx?storyid=100651&catid=188>

Police Seek to Identify Impersonator with Taser

(NCR BOLO)

On Saturday, April 3 at 8:30 a.m. in Manassas Detective Medawar says a man dressed all in blue, wearing a police belt, handcuffs, a pistol and a Taser, flashed a police badge to a clerk opening up a cash checking-bondsman business in the 10500 block of Lomond Drive. The man claimed to be a police officer to the clerk. When the clerk refused to show the man some documents he requested, the phony cop then tried to taser the store clerk. In the end, the bad guy made away with \$20,000 from the store. He fled the scene in a gray van. Medawar is still looking for that police impersonator from the Manassas check cashing case.



Tasers emit small little pieces of paper when they are fired. Police are working with the Taser Corporation to track down the serial number on the cartridge that was fired. **To report a CrimeSolvers tip, please call toll-free 1-866-411-TIPS. You don't have to give your name, just the information. You could earn up to a \$1,000 cash reward.**

<http://www.wusa9.com/news/local/story.aspx?storyid=100689&catid=188>

Study of Military Facebook Pages Offers Lessons for All Agencies

(Resource)

A new report by Janson Communications on social web media "yielded some interesting results and lessons not only for the military but also for any government organization delving into Facebook," For example, "government site administrators" need "to clearly mark the official pages of their organizations" and "post rules of engagement." They also need to interact with fans and not just post articles and press releases. Facebook features more than 1,000 official military fan pages, ranging from small units and recruiting stations all the way to the upper echelons of DOD.

<http://fcw.com/articles/2010/04/26/comment-wellman-defense-social-media-study.aspx>

FEMA Starts Smartphone Website

(Resource)

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has established a new mobile website, <http://m.fema.gov/> which makes it easier to use a smartphone to access critical information about emergency preparedness and what to do before and after a disaster. The site answers questions such as “What should I do in a disaster?” “Where can I find assistance?” and “How can I help others?” FEMA will be making several enhancements to <http://m.fema.gov/> in the coming months, including the ability to apply for individual assistance when a disaster has been declared by the President, check on the status of an application and update an existing application.

<http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=51099>



U.S. Businesses Face Skimming-Fraud Increase

(Criminal TTP)

U.S. banks are grappling with a recent increase in skimming attacks, which are being carried out by Eastern European gangs aiming to steal consumer bank account numbers and Personal Identification Numbers, according to a Gartner analyst. These types of attacks are not new, but the scale and the organization behind them is, the Gartner vice president told SCMagazineUS.com April 27. Over the past six months, fraudsters increasingly have been mounting well-organized and systematic attacks that involve placing skimming devices on not just ATM machines — the most commonly targeted device — but also point-of-sale systems and gas-pump card readers. The analyst said she heard about the increase in skimming at a recent fraud conference attended by officials from numerous financial-services firms.



<http://www.scmagazineus.com/us-businesses-face-skimming-fraud-increase/article/168793/>

WRTAC Analyst Note: The Secret Service and other law enforcement agencies are investigating ATM skimming scams in New York, Virginia, Washington DC, Pennsylvania and Maryland. Here is what you can do to reduce the likelihood of having your identity and account information stolen:

- **Pay attention to the front of machines.** If it looks different from others in the area (for example, it has an extra mirror on the face), has sticky residue on it (potentially from a device attached to it) or extra signage, use a different machine and notify bank management with your concerns.
- **Notice how it feels when inserting your card.** If it's difficult or you feel resistance, it could mean that a skimming device is present.
- **If you think the area around the card entry slot looks peculiar, pull on it.** If it comes off or loosens, alert bank management but try to leave the machine as you found it. Leaving the evidence in place could help authorities track down the criminals.
- **Notice how it feels to type in your PIN code.** If it's difficult to punch the keys, it could mean that a keypad overlay is present.
- **Cover your hand as you type in your PIN.** If a camera is present or someone is trying to look over your shoulder, this will obstruct their view.

Resources

GlobalIncidentMap.com

A Global Display of Terrorism And Other Suspicious Events

DomesticTerrorMap.com

Washington DC Links

Live Traffic Reports <http://www.ddot.dc.gov/traffic>

Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency <http://hsema.dc.gov/dcema/site/default.asp>

DC Department of Health <http://dchealth.dc.gov/doh/site/default.asp>

Sign-up for Alerts <https://textalert.ema.dc.gov/index.php?CCheck=1>

To request a DC Government Service, call 311 or 202-727-1000, also online at <http://src.dc.gov>



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