

Digital Device Theft



Cell phones and other devices can become easy targets for thieves due to their concealable sizes, high re-sale values, and important information stored on them.

Digital Device Personal Safety Tips

- **Be aware of your surroundings.** Avoid unfamiliar and isolated locations when using your device.
- **Do not lend your phone to anyone.** Criminals may pose as victims in need of making an emergency phone call and run off with your phone. Offer to call for them.
- **Keep possessions out of sight.** Don't display cash, cell phones, hand-held electronic games, or expensive jewelry and clothing.

During a Digital Device Theft

- **Do not resist or challenge the thief.** Do not risk your personal safety.
- **Stay calm.** Do not make sudden movements. The suspect may be easily provoked or under the influence of drugs.
- **Be systematic in your observations.** Look for unique features of the thief such as tattoos, accents, birth marks, or piercings.

After a Digital Device Theft

- **Do not chase or follow the thief.**
- **Contact the police immediately.** Ask someone near you to call 9-1-1.
- **Provide detailed descriptions.** Note any person or vehicle descriptions, especially the thief's escape method and direction of travel.

Smartphone Anti-Theft Tips

Know your information! If stolen, police require cell phone specifics: phone number, make, model and serial number, colour and appearance, or unique features.

Keep your device secure! Use the lock/password feature to prevent unauthorized access. Use the phone erase feature to delete information after a set number of consecutive password tries. Make your phone unique! Write your postal code on your phone with a UV pen or have a unique case. Re-do the UV writing process every few months as it fades.

Track it for free! Apple, Google, and Microsoft have free "find my phone apps" in their app stores or for a small fee anti-theft software can be purchased.

Back it up again! Your important personal information is precious; put it on a USB or hard drive: pictures, emails, contacts, videos.

Source: Burnaby RCMP Crime Prevention Unit