The UCSF Police Department would like to inform UCSF students, staff and employees of a recent series of credit card thefts. The general pattern involves a perpetrator who obtains a victim’s credit card or credit card information and calls the victim pretending to be a representative from the victim’s bank or financial institution. The perpetrator tells the victim fraudulent activity occurred on the victim’s account and the victim’s pin number is required to deactivate the account. The perpetrator then makes ATM withdrawals on the account using the provided pin number.

Similar incidents have occurred at both the Parnassus and Mount Zion campuses. UCSF PD asks students, staff and employees to be mindful of suspicious persons on campus or individuals who may attempt to follow you to and from work or school. When on campus, keep your purse and/or wallet in a secure location, especially if you work or study in highly trafficked areas. Never give out your pin number to anyone, including your bank or credit card company. Financial institutions have other ways to verify your identity and should never ask for your pin number.

UCSF PD is currently investigating these incidents. Anyone with information regarding these or similar incidents is encouraged to contact Detective Sergeant Mark Zuasola at 415/476-5174.

Personal Safety Tips:
UCSF PD recommends employees, staff and students take the following precautions. Suspects look for crimes of opportunity and certain personal safety measures can be followed to minimize your chances of becoming a victim. These are:

- Do not leave doors to buildings propped open.
- Prevent tailgating by closing all doors and gates behind you when entering or leaving.
- Be vigilant of suspicious persons. Call UCSF PD if a suspicious person is seen loitering on campus.
- Travel in groups whenever possible, especially at night.
- Avoid poorly-lit or deserted areas when walking at night.
- Make use of the shuttle and escort services.
- Stay alert to your surroundings. Avoid headphone and cell phone use when walking or waiting alone.
- Do not stop in response to conversation starters (i.e. asking for time or directions).
- If you are walking to your car, keep your car keys easily accessible, preferably in your hand.
- If you feel you are being followed, go into an open business and ask for help.
- Keep emergency numbers pre-programmed into your cell phone.
- If you are faced with demands for your money or property, especially from an armed subject, comply with their demands in the interest of your safety.

Help fight crime by reporting suspicious activity to UCSF PD immediately. For emergency or in-progress events, dial 9-911 when using on-campus land lines and 415/476-6911 when using cell phones. For non-emergency calls, please dial 415/476-1414.

Together for a Safe and Crime Free Campus

Pamela E. Roskowski
Chief of Police

This alert is a public service to the University community and in compliance with the Jeanne Clery Act of 1998
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