CRIME ALERT

May 23, 2020

Increased Bicycle Theft Activity at Mission Bay Campus

The UCSF Police Department has observed a recent increase in bicycle theft activity throughout the Mission Bay campus. The majority of incidents have occurred at bike racks located along 4th Street adjacent to the Medical Center and at racks surrounding Koret Quad near the Rutter Community Center. Suspects have been observed using power tools, such as portable angle grinders and other devices, to defeat cable locks and U-locks. Please notify UCSF Police Department immediately if you observe someone tampering with a bicycle on campus.

The UCSF Police Department recommends UCSF community members who commute by bicycle to the Mission Bay, Parnassus, and Mount Zion campuses to consider using the secured bicycle cages provided by UCSF Parking & Transportation. For more information on how to obtain a bicycle permit and registration, please visit: https://campuslifeservices.ucsf.edu/transportation/services/biking.

Bike Theft Prevention Tips:
Suspects look for crimes of opportunity and certain safety measures can be followed to minimize your chances of becoming a victim of bicycle theft. These are:

- Always lock your frame with a high quality U-lock or a heavy chain and secure your wheels. Make sure to fill up as much space inside the “U” as possible with poles, posts, and your frame and wheel. Leaving empty space gives room for a thief to pry open your lock.
- A cable lock is not enough to protect your bicycle against theft. Cable locks are easy to cut. Get rid of any U-lock with a round barrel key. These locks can be broken easily by an experienced thief.
- Find an appropriate fixed object to lock your bike to. Don’t lock your bike to a pole or post that is loose in the ground. Thieves may have loosened it themselves.
- Remove lights and speedometers when parking your bike. Replace quick-releases with other types of skewers.
- Protect your bike by registering it. While registering your bike won’t keep it from being stolen, it greatly aids in recovery of the bicycle by police. The police will not be able to release the bicycle to the owner without proof that it belongs to you. In addition, it helps the police identify and locate the proper owner. The National Bike Registry is an excellent resource for getting your bike registered into a nationwide database. A bike registered with NBR, the only true national database, can be identified by police and returned to you instead of being sold at an auction.
- Record your bike’s serial number and other descriptive info and store in a safe place.
- If your bicycle is stolen, report it to the police. The police will request simple descriptive information, such as the serial number and a photo of the bike, if possible. Remember to request a copy of your police report.
- Post the theft as STOLEN on craigslist. Sometimes cyclists are happily reunited with their bicycles by other craigslist viewers who have seen (or even accidentally bought) the bicycle online or on the street. You can also monitor eBay, and post the bike as missing to online email alerts.

Together for a Safe and Crime-Free Campus

Mike Denson
Chief of Police

This alert is a public service to the University community and in compliance with the Jeanne Clery Act
lists within the bike community. It always helps to have other eyes out searching! Stolen bikes have also been recovered at Bay Area flea markets and the notorious San Francisco Civic Center Plaza.

Employees, staff, and students are asked to report any suspicious persons or circumstances to UCSF PD immediately and to dial 415.476.6911 in the case of an emergency.

Help fight crime by reporting suspicious persons and/or suspicious activity to UCSF PD immediately—race, gender, and religious affiliation are NOT considered suspicious. For emergency or in-progress events, dial 415.476.6911 when using cell phones. For non-emergency calls, please dial 415.476.1414.

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