

Fall 2015

GRAND ISLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT BUSINESS WATCH

GRAND ISLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT
CRIME PREVENTION UNIT
111 PUBLIC SAFETY DRIVE
GRAND ISLAND NE 68803



COUNTERFEIT CREDIT CARD ALERT

The Grand Island Police Department is advising merchants to be on the lookout for the following behavior, which frequently indicates counterfeit credit cards are being used:

- Subjects purchasing very few pieces of merchandise, but several prepaid debit cards, gift cards, or phone cards using the self-check registers.

- Subjects appearing to be secretive about their purchase of prepaid cards. These subjects usually have a second individual with them who is responsible for alerting them of employees who might be aware of their activity.

- Subjects using several different credit cards (which are usually the counterfeit credit cards) to purchase the prepaid debit cards, gift cards and phone cards. These purchases will happen in quick succession, with the subjects usually purchasing one card at a time.

- It should be noted that theft of these prepaid debit/credit cards is not uncommon either. While the cards seem useless because they have not been activated, they can be useful for the magnetic strip found on the back of the cards. The stolen cards give the appearance of being legitimate, but the magnetic strips will have stolen credit card information on the back of them.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Grand Island Police Department is to enhance the quality of life in our community by working with the public and within the framework of the United States Constitution, preserve the peace, reduce fear, and provide a safe environment for all our citizens.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!!!! RETAIL ASSOCIATION MEETING
AUGUST 12TH AT 9:00AM AT THE CONESTOGA MALL.**



There have been 87 fraud/forgery reports from Jan 1 through July 31. The highest number of incidents occurred between 1pm-5pm

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PREVENTING OR REDUCING CREDIT CARD FRAUD:

- Check the printed receipt to ensure the last 4 of the credit card number on the receipt matches the last 4 numbers on the card, if they do not match, you most likely have a counterfeit card.
- Consider asking for identification from those attempting to purchase prepaid cards with a credit card. Confirm the signature on the card matches the signature on the receipt and the identification of the person presenting it.
- Control access to cards. Consider placing them in a central location where they can be constantly monitored for suspicious activity.
- Instruct employees to be on the lookout for the above mentioned behavior and develop a plan for alerting law enforcement. It is imperative law enforcement be contacted as soon as possible so the subjects are not able to dispose of the counterfeit cards.

HELP US HELP YOUR EMPLOYEES AND YOU!!!!!!

In the past few weeks, GIPD has taken several reports of employees putting his/her cell phone on a rack/table/counter and having the phones stolen. Obviously this is disruptive to your business with an officer showing up to take a report that is not related to your business. It is an easily preventable offense by introducing or enforcing rules regarding cell phone usage while on the floor.

SPONSORSHIPS

Is your business looking for a way to give back to the community? GIPD has sponsorship opportunities available to retail organizations. Contact Officer Piercy at 308-385-5400 x2272.



CHOOSE TO DRINK AND DRIVE?GIPD WILL BE LOOKING FOR YOU

GIPD was awarded a Highway Safety Grant for select officers to work at least 160 hours of DUI grant overtime. The grant runs August 21st to September 7th .

COFFEE WITH THE CHIEFS



Police Chief Lamken and Fire Chief Schmidt will be filling their coffee cups and sitting and answering questions at local establishments in October. This is a unique opportunity for community members to ask questions and learn more about how the department works. Stay tuned to our social media outlets for further details.

SHOPLIFTING DOES AFFECT US ALL.....

Prevention Measures

- Keep shelves and displays low and aisles clear to increase visibility.
 - Install annunciators on all unlocked doors.
 - Provide adequate lighting and eliminate blind spots.
 - Where appropriate, utilize security staff, convex mirrors, CCTV, electronic sensors, cables, tags, locks and chains.
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- Make it difficult to steal merchandise. Bolt racks down; alternate the direction of hangers on the racks, tie appliance cords together; lock small valuable items in cabinets and keep other valuables away from store exits.
 - Limit the number of items allowed into dressing rooms.
 - Do Not allow packages/backpacks into the dressing rooms. Offer to hold the packages for the customer.
 - Post signs warning that shoplifters will be prosecuted.
- Encourage employees to greet customers as they enter the store. One phrase every shoplifter hates to hear is "Can I help you?"
 - Maintain a neat, orderly store with tight inventory controls.
 - Develop a store policy and provide training for shoplifting incidents
 - Discuss your shoplifting policy with the corporate office. Prosecution is a great deterrent. Word gets around quickly which stores are intensely proactive in catching shoplifters.