

CRIME ALERT

Robbers strike in Field, Regina, Northrop, Hale & Diamond Lake

September 26, 2008

Facts:

Minneapolis Police are investigating nine robberies of persons that have occurred since Sept. 4 in the area between East 42nd Street and East 56th Street, from Portland Avenue to Elliot Avenue.

The two most recent robberies occurred about two hours apart on Tuesday, Sept. 23. (1.) About 6:00 p.m., as a resident approached his home on the 4900 block of Park Ave., a young male confronted him with a handgun. The robber took his briefcase, demanded his wallet, then fled on foot. The victim described him as a thin black male, 5'8" to 5'10", dark complexion, and a narrow face with some chin whiskers. He wore a black, light-weight winter "hoodie" jacket with the hood up. (2.) At 7:45 p.m., a resident was walking on the south bike path by Minnehaha Creek east of 51st St. and Chicago Ave. A male with a handgun approached him from behind and demanded his wallet. The resident's description of the robber was close to that in the earlier robbery except he wore a gray hoodie and dark pants.

Most of the other robberies occurred between 4:45 p.m. and 11:30 p.m. Suspects threatened victims with handguns in several of the robberies, but no one was injured. Suspect information was varied. Third Precinct officers, investigators from MPD's city-wide Robbery and Juvenile units, and the Park Police are conducting intense investigations, according to Inspector Lucy Gerold, commander of the Third Precinct.

Date	Time	Location	Weapon	Suspects
9/4 - Northrop	11:30 p.m.	47xx 12th Ave. S.: Suspects followed victim into her garage.	No weapon. Forcefully pulled purse off victim's shoulder/arm.	Two males, 25-30 years old, medium build, 5'8". One Hispanic, one mixed-race. Fled in dark Honda Civic
9/7 (attempted) - Diamond Lake	3:45 a. m. —Victim walking to friends' house heard steps behind him. Suspect wanted his cell phone.	55xx Chicago Ave.	Silver handgun, possibly fake. Victim ran, suspect followed. Victim got home safely.	White male, 5'8" – 5'9", light build., 19-20 years old, blond with shaved/ short hair. Left in silver sedan (like a Chevy Caprice)
9/12 (attempted) - Northrop	9:15 p.m.	42xx Elliot Ave. S.: victim in alley taking golf bag out of car. No loss.	No weapon seen. Suspect demanded money, victim refused and the suspect fled.	Black male 14-15 yrs., 5'9" medium build, medium complex, crew cut, fine features, dark clothes
9/12 (attempted)- Northrop	6 p.m.	4323 Chicago (Walgreen's): purse snatched from customer in parking lot.	No weapon	Two black males, late teens to early 20s, 5'7"-5'9, one wore white t-shirt and dark shorts.
9/18 – Field/ Northrop	7:45 p.m.—Victim was walking his dog; approached from behind	1000 block of E. Minnehaha Pkwy.: took iPod, cell phone	Black semi-automatic handgun	Black male, 17-18, 5' 10" -5'11", light build, whiskers on face. Dark hoodie, dark pants
9/20 - Hale	7 p.m.	E 54th St and Elliot: grabbed victim's cell phone, pushed her down.	No weapon.	Two black females 16-18 years, 5'6"-5'7". In purple shirt, jeans; pink shirt/jeans.
9/21- Regina	7:40 p.m.	E. 44th and Portland—asked victim for the time. Took two cell phones, ran away.	Small handgun	Black male 16-18, long black hair in pony tail, royal blue jersey with multiple numbers on it.

See reverse side.

What you can do:

- Be aware of your surroundings, especially any activity near your garage, car or bus stop.
- Be alert to people loitering near your parking area.
- If you see someone loitering in your alley when you drive in towards your garage, keep going! Go around the block until they are gone, or go to a neighbor's house. You can call 911 and report the suspicious behavior.
- Avoid parking in secluded, poorly lit areas at night and leave space between your car and the vehicles in front and behind so that no one can hide between them.
- Use dusk-to-dawn lighting on front porch to brighten the area near your entrance and motion detection lights on your back porch or garage.

When walking...

- Plan and use the safest and most direct routes. Look confident and purposeful.
- Carry your keys and money in a pocket, not in a purse or wallet.
- If you must carry a handbag, keep it next to your body, with the flap or clasp towards you. Don't keep a wallet in a back pocket.
- Become familiar with businesses that are open late.
- Walk with a friend if possible—particularly at night.
- You do not have to respond when someone tries to ask you for directions, the time, money or a cigarette, etc.
- If someone is following you in a car, turn around and quickly walk in the opposite direction. Try to get the license plate number and a description of the car and driver, and call 911.
- If someone is following you on foot, turn around to let the person know you see them. Immediately cross the street and walk or run toward a place where there are other people. Call the police or get someone else to call for you.

FREE Personal Safety Workshop

Come and learn how to reduce your chance of becoming a victim.

Thursday, Oct. 16, 2008

Washburn High School Auditorium
201 W. 49th St.
7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

This workshop is conducted by Community Crime Prevention/ SAFE of the Minneapolis Police Department. Special Guest Mary Brandl, a self-defense expert who can help you learn a lot about "street smarts." Questions? Call Amy Lavender at 612-673-5407 or email amy.lavender@ci.minneapolis.mn.us

For more crime prevention information and other resources, contact Crime Prevention Specialist Sue Roethele at the Third Precinct (612-673-2839) or e-mail sue.roethele@ci.minneapolis.mn.us. Visit the Police Department's web site www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police for crime alerts, crime maps and crime statistics.



If you need this material in an alternative format, please contact the Minneapolis Police Department at 612-673-2912.