On Friday December 20, 2013 at 2:55 pm the University of Missouri-St. Louis Police Department was notified of a stealing of a cell phone from a patron at the Metro Link North Platform.

Apparently the victim, a non-UMSL student, was approached by a male subject who asked to use her phone. She indicated that she allowed him to use the phone, and when the metro-link train came she asked for her phone back, but the suspect ran away with the victim’s phone towards Florissant Road. The victim was not hurt in this incident. UMSL Police Department did an area canvass for the suspect and could not locate him.

The St. Louis County Police Metro-Link Unit has been investigating several I-Phone related thefts where riders are targeted by a various suspects. The suspect will approach the victim using an I-Phone and will snatch it out of their hands and run, or ask to use the phone and then flee. The campus police remind everyone to always be aware of their surroundings and to travel in groups whenever possible. If you become suspicious of anyone or activity please call the campus police at 314-516-5155. If you have any information relative to this incident or similar incidents, please call the campus police or Metro Security at 314-289-6873.

The following are safety tips for cell phones enabled with certain features:

**Precautions**

- Protect phone with a password or PIN. Save phone’s serial number. Avoid storing unnecessary personal information in the phone. Keep aware of your surroundings. Don’t leave phone in the open in restaurants or other public places. Don't leave phone visible in unattended vehicle.

**If the phone is stolen**

- Locate it using GPS and notify police of the location – if on campus have someone call campus police 314-516-5155. Lock it remotely. Report the theft immediately to the carrier to avoid paying for the thief’s use. Request written confirmation from the carrier that the theft was reported and the device disabled. If unable to lock the missing device, change any passwords it contains for e-mail, banking and social networking accounts.

For more information about cell phone safety contact: Federal Communications Commission

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