

SECURALERT

THE OFFICE CREEPER



Spring is a season of great weather, flowers and new beginnings but it also sprouts the office creeper who may target your business.

TIPS TO PROTECT YOUR BUSINESS FROM THE OFFICE CREEPER

The Best Defense - YOU!

Office creepers are professional thieves who try to blend into an office building or other setting by looking and acting just like any other tenant, visitor or contractor. They look for things easy to steal that may be left out in the open or left in an unsecured drawer, such as wallets, keys, cash, equipment and most commonly, laptop computers. They steal quickly and look for things that are of value and are easy to steal. And, of course, they don't want to be observed or caught, so they prey on offices left open or where tenants and employees are in meetings or not in their offices. They even use props – like umbrellas, brief cases, fake ID's and even business cards along with clothing and equipment commonly used in the building they are targeting – to make you think they belong and are legitimate. But make no mistake, the office creeper is a hardened criminal and who steals billions of dollars of assets each year from companies, buildings and office complexes.

YOU are the best defense against the office creeper! If you see the following, report the person to security or building management or simply ask if you can help them:

- An unfamiliar person going from room to room or office to office;
- A person standing in a hallway for a long period of time or wandering in a hallway or common areas;
- A person waiting outside of the building near the time that the building will be opening or closing;
- A person without an employee or visitor badge (If your building or office uses these)
- A maintenance employee or contractor who you have not seen before or who may not be wearing any ID;
- A person who looks lost or not sure where he or she is going and
- Watch out for the “Head Popper.” A “Head Popper” is an opportunistic thief or burglar who peers his/her head quickly into a room or opens a wrong door, pretending to look for a specific office or person. Their intention is to deprive the rightful owner of property (i.e., credit cards, money, car keys, laptop

The office creeper is a very good actor and may pose as a business person, job applicant and even a maintenance contractor or janitor.