

TechTips Newsletter

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Amazon Employee “Crashes” Drone

Drones are fun, but it is important to know where you should not be flying it, and be careful at all times. Recently, an Amazon employee visiting Seattle found that out the hard way.

According to a Seattle police report, an unnamed Amazon employee visiting Seattle from out of town had recently purchased a quad-copter drone for personal use and wanted to test it out.

Apparently, the employee launched the drone from his hotel room, and navigated it to the Space Needle to snap some photos and a few video clips from 500-600 feet above the ground.

Witnesses at the Space Needle alleged that the drone flew into a window on the observation deck, and the Space Needle security called the cops.

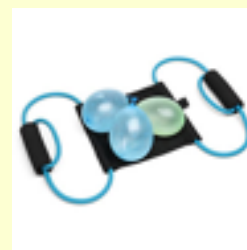
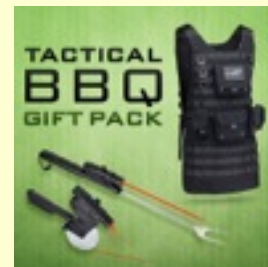
The drone was already safely back to the hotel room when the Seattle police showed up. The Amazon employee showed officers the footage his drone captured, showing him that his drone had not crashed. After finding no indication of a crash in the video, despite the eyewitness accounts, police let him go with a soft warning to not fly his drone around Seattle anymore.

Commercial drone use is heavily restricted in the US, however, flying drones for recreational purposes is allowed, though some FAA regulations and local laws do apply.



Long Weekend.

With the last long weekend of the summer coming up, here are a few things that could “geek out” your otherwise normal activities this long weekend! These things include a tactical BBQ pack, zombie lawn gnomes, Super Mario Monopoly, a three person catapult, and a beaker coffee mug.



DO YOU HAVE

Do you have experience with Technology by Design that you'd think other people would want to hear? How would you like to have lunch or dinner, on us?

SOMETHING TO SAY?

Ask us how you can have your business promoted through us, and get your dinner too!

Want some more information? Call us at 204-800-3166, or email helpdesk@tbyd.ca!

EXPLODING CELL PHONES

A 13-year old in Texas woke up to a smokey smell one night. Thinking nothing of it, she tried to go back to sleep. When the smell didn't go away, she noticed her Samsung Galaxy S4 was melting away under her pillow.

The girl's father, believes it was the phone's battery that caused it to catch fire after it swelled up from overheating.

The girl said that the phone slipped under her pillow during the night. Samsung explained that it has

a warning that if you cover your phone with anything that prevents airflow this might, indeed, cause a fire.

Samsung insists that it does make safe products, and pointed out that in this case, the battery was not a Samsung brand battery, but a replacement off-brand battery.

Samsung is examining the phone in an attempt to see what may have happened and prevent similar situations in the future. However, they do still suggest that you keep your phone further away at night.

NEW BATHROOM DEVICE COULD PREVENT NIGHTMARES

Usually, we at Technology by Design avoid "potty talk", but we just couldn't ignore this.

How many time have you sat down to do your "business", only to realize after that your partner or child has again, forgotten to change the toilet paper roll. You're left to either cry for help, or make your way to the stash under the sink.

With the "RollScout", you could eliminate these awkward situations, and potentially, a few fights over who always has to change the toilet paper.

RollScout warns you when there's not enough paper on the roll through a bright and noticeable flashing light that draws your attention. So you can change the roll before you take a seat.

RollScout utilizes reliable infrared emitters and sensors to monitor the level of

toilet paper on the roll. When this level falls below a set amount of paper, RollScout turns on its warning system, a pulsing ring of amber light bright enough to be noticeable even in daylight conditions.

To accommodate the different types of bathroom decor, they have versions of the RollScout in antique brass, polished chrome, brushed nickel, ceramic white, and even a 14K gold plated edition.

Although not currently available, they are asking for

funding via KickStarter stating the following:

"Manufacturing a 100% brass, high quality bathroom accessory in premium finishes involves considerable setup costs, such as the cost of building dies for forging the RollScout frame and the cost of manufacturing custom Printed Circuit Boards. Funds from this campaign will be used towards these initial costs of production.

RollScout is production ready. We are working with US based manufacturers that specialize in premium electronic bathroom products such as electronic faucets for major brand names. All designs are complete and we are ready to roll once funding is secured!"

Want to see this product in YOUR bathroom? Help them reach their \$37,500 goal on KickStarter!



“TECH-SAVVY” CRIMINALS

Anne Arundel County Police Department has been using social media as a way to communicate with the residents there for years, recently using it to share photos and profiles of wanted criminals.

Roger Ray Ireland did not like that. When his photo and profile was shared on the Facebook page saying he was wanted in custody for the violation of his parole, he posted a message from his Facebook account. In this message, he made comments as to who he was with, who had all posted his bail, and finished with the comment “y’all will never catch me...”

This of course, led to more shares of the profile and more awareness of people in the area. The next day, following up on some of the tips received, the Intelligence Unit was able to locate Ireland and take him into custody.

“Social Media is a great tool for law enforcement and we appreciate our Social Media Sleuths,” said Police Chief Kevin Davis. “Community involvement is paramount to law enforcement’s success and the amount of tips that we receive daily on social media shows how much ownership citizens are taking in their own communities.”



(L)AWFULLY SILLY PHOTOS

We trust that the laws that are made are there to protect us in some way. In every country, state, or province, there are always one or two laws that make you question the sanity of the lawmakers.

One photographer decided to take these silly laws, and make them into a photographic series called "I Fought The Law". Olivia Locher says her interest in the subject began when she read of a law in Alabama stating that it is illegal to have an ice cream cone in your back pocket. After this, she began searching for some more odd laws, looking in law books, public records, and even talking to locals when she can.

Once she’s got a handful of seemingly legit laws, Locher starts shooting. Staged shots typically are made in her Manhattan studio,

but sometimes she’ll shoot in the field.

“It’s just deciding on what needs to be included in the picture to tell a cool story,” she says. “Sometimes the subject matter could be kept really simple, but then other times you need more of an environment. Whatever the laws are saying, that’s how I come up with how much information I need to show. Some of them I feel



require a little bit more than just a simple studio shot.”

These laws aren’t likely to ruin anyone’s day—you’re more likely to be cited for jaywalking than having an ice cream cone in your back pocket. Locher’s project isn’t about addressing a broken legal system. It’s more an indulgence in the absurdities that arise when people are left to set the rules for themselves. Regardless of all that, she likes having fun with it and making the photos look as silly as the laws sound.

Photographs depicting weird laws in Canada have not yet been done (to our knowledge). One law that may make the cut in any photography series of the sort is a law in Calgary states that it is unlawful to throw snowballs or set off firecrackers within the city, without the authorization of the mayor or City Council.

TechTip Postcard

Insider Tips and Secrets to Get The MOST Out of Your Computer August, 2014

How To Avoid The Top 4 Budget Busting, Stress-Inducing Mistakes When Moving Your Office

Moving is always a pain in the rump, but it doesn't have to be a horrific, expensive experience. The number one lament from someone who's experienced a "bad" move is, "I didn't know I needed to" followed closely by "I completely forgot that" In other words, it's what you don't do that makes the move a disaster.

To make your move easy and effortless, here are the 4 most common mistakes to avoid:

Mistake #1 — Not Using A Checklist

This may seem like a no-brainer to those who manage projects, but project management may not be a forte of someone placed in charge of your move (like an office admin). Even those who use a list typically fail to make the list detailed enough.

Mistake #2 — Trying To Save Money By Moving Your Own Computer Network

Don't ask your staff to disconnect, move and reconnect computers, phones and other devices just to save a few bucks. You'll frustrate them and end up with phones ringing at the wrong extension, lost cables, and workstations that get dropped rendering them useless. You don't want to let the movers do this job either; they may be great at moving furniture, but a network is a lot more sophisticated and sensitive. Be smart and hire an IT pro to pack and move your network.

Mistake #3 — Not Hiring The RIGHT IT Firm To Move Your Network

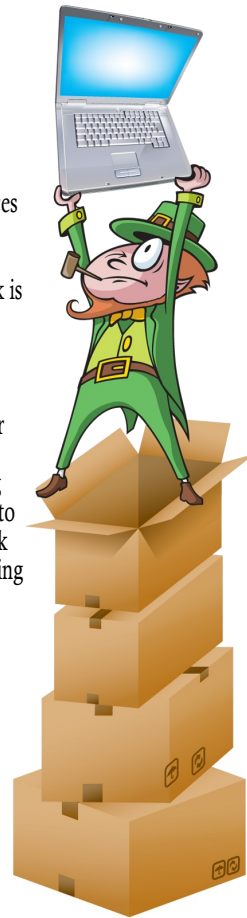
Make sure you know what to look for when outsourcing the move. A few things to look for would include references from other clients, proof of insurance, a service level guarantee limiting the amount of time you are down, and a professional, organized approach to quoting the move. A real pro will insist on visiting your current location as well as your new location to conduct a detailed site survey. NEVER hire anyone who wants to quote moving your network over the phone. Additionally, look for an IT company that will apply the charges for conducting your site survey against the total cost of the move if you choose them.

Mistake #4 — Not Giving Your Phone, Internet And Cable Vendors Enough Advance Warning

80% of unexpected communications, blackouts and cost overruns on network moves are caused by failure to properly plan voice, data and electrical installation in advance. Just because the prior tenant had computers and telephones is no guarantee that the cabling is suitable for your phones and your computer network. Advance planning will help you avoid emergency rush fees or band aid fixes to make things work.

Internet and telephone connections require as much as six weeks advance notice to be installed, tested and ready the day you move in

And if you are building a new office, don't leave it up to the builder to decide how many power outlets, network and phone connections you will need. Remember, changes and additions after the walls are up are at your expense. With printers, scanners, faxes, and other technologies connecting directly to the network these days, the rule of thumb of one electrical outlet, one phone and one network connection per employee is woefully outdated.



For more information about how **Technology by Design** can help you plan and move your business, call (204) 800-3166 or email helpdesk@tbyd.ca