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Title **Press Release on September 1972 blue box arrests**

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Author(s) Mollura, Dennis

Abstract AT&T press release describing eight business executives -- seven men and a woman -- arrested in five cities in a nationwide crackdown on blue boxes. Some statistics given.

Keywords Dallas, TX; Houston, TX; Minneapolis, MN; Memphis, TN; Cleveland, OH

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For further information contact: Dennis Mollura - Office 212 393-4078
Home 201 366-3805

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - September 12, 1972

Eight business executives -- seven men and a woman -- were arrested in five cities yesterday in a nationwide crackdown on people who use "blue box" devices to cheat the telephone companies of toll revenue by making fraudulent long distance calls.

Apprehended in a coordinated series of arrests by federal authorities were three men and a woman in Dallas and men in Cleveland, Houston, Minneapolis and Memphis. They were charged with violating the federal "fraud by wire" statute, which carries a penalty of not more than five years' imprisonment and/or \$1,000 fine.

The nationwide investigation is continuing and further arrests may follow shortly in other cities.

So far this year, there have been some 500 arrests and 400 convictions for various types of telephone fraud, compared with 330 arrests and 255 convictions for all of 1971.

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