



# ***Exploding The Phone***

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Bibliographic Cover Sheet

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

Date            1972-09-12

Author(s)      Mollura, Dennis

Abstract        Press release regarding September 1972 arrests. Some handwritten updates to statistics.

Keywords       blue box; Dennis Mollura

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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 ~~377~~ <sup>577</sup> arrests and ~~255~~ <sup>292</sup> convictions for all of 1971.

*Later, 2 arrested in Detroit for total of 10.*

-end-

*9/13*