FIRST RESPONDER SMART PHONE THEFT INVESTIGATION GUIDE

The theft and robbery of cellular phones is a significant problem. Responding officers can consider attempting to track phones that were recently stolen. Smart phones have GPS and can easily be tracked on an internet connected computer with the consent of the owner using the following procedures:

Android
Go to https://www.google.com/android/devicemanager
Enter the victim's Gmail address and password.
You will be presented with a map showing where the phone is.

iPhone
Go to https://www.icloud.com/
Enter the victim's Apple ID (which should be an email address) and password. This is the same information the person would use to access iTunes. Note that unlike Android, the password to the iCloud account can be different than the password to their email address.
Click on Find My iPhone and you will be presented with a map showing where the phone is.

Windows Phone
Go to http://www.windowsphone.com
Click on My Phone in the upper right hand corner and sign in with the victim's email address and password for their Microsoft Account.
Click on My Phone in the upper right hand corner, select Find My Phone and you will be presented with a map showing where the phone is.

TIPS:
1. Be mindful that the GPS signal is not precise enough that you can be certain that a stolen phone is in a specific dwelling.
2. There are many circumstances that would cause these techniques to not work—the phone is turned off, the battery is dead, the phone is not receiving a GPS signal, etc.
3. While some of these techniques can be done from another cell phone, it is slow and awkward. Try to find a desktop computer to use.
4. If you are in the field and no computer is available, collaborate with another officer who is on a computer at a fixed location.
5. Do not broadcast a citizen's email address and password over the air. Use a telephone to transmit this information.
6. A Blackberry phone can only be tracked if the user has previously installed an app to allow this.