



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

Lake County, Illinois

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COMMUNITY ALERT **“RUSE” BURGLARIES**

EMERGENCY
DIAL 911

DIVISIONS

Civil Process
(847) 377-4400

Communications
(847) 549-5200

Court Security
(847) 377-4911

Criminal
Investigations
(847) 377-4250

Emergency
Management
Agency
(847) 377-7100

Highway Patrol
(847) 377-7020

Jail
(847) 377-4112

Marine Unit
(847) 587-4471

Records
(847) 377-4200

Training/
Community
Service
(847) 377-4350

Warrants
(847) 377-4300

Work Release
(847) 377-4450

Dear Resident:

The Lake County Sheriff's Office is warning homeowners of “ruse” burglaries and how to take action to prevent being the victim of these types of crimes.

Victims are targeted because of their advanced age and the probability they are living alone. The offenders usually travel in pairs, with one offender distracting the homeowner while the second offender enters the home to search for and steal cash, jewelry and other items. There are many story lines offenders will use, including:

- Inquiries about the homeowner's water supply or pressure
- Informing the homeowner there is an electrical problem
- Offers to repair gutters/fences or tree trimming and landscaping officers
- Blacktop/driveway repair
- False statements about problems at the neighbor's house
- Inquiries about homes for sale in the neighborhood

This Community Alert is to serve as a reminder that nobody should be allowed inside your home unless they are personally known to you or unless it is a scheduled appointment. If a solicitor comes to your residence, prior to answering the door, attempt to locate and remember what kind of vehicle they are driving (make, model, color, type). Further, make a mental note of their attire and physical characteristics. If you do choose to speak with a solicitor or utility worker, never leave your front door unlocked or unattended.

This type of “ruse” or distraction burglary is becoming more prevalent. Homeowners must always be wary of offers that sound too good to be true and cautious of strangers who attempt to charm you into buying something.

If you feel you have been the victim of a ruse burglary or if you have seen suspicious vehicles and/or subjects approaching elderly neighbors, please call the Lake County Sheriff's Office at 847/549-5200 to report these incidents or 911 if the offense is in progress at the time. Please be ready to provide a vehicle description and a license plates, if possible.

Deputy Chief George Manis
Criminal Investigations Division