



NILES POLICE DEPARTMENT

MEDIA RELEASE

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Ruse Entry Burglary Prevention Tips

Several times a year, police officers take reports from homeowners who are victims of home repair frauds and ruse entry burglaries. Recently, we received several such reports in which a con artist showed up at the victim's door saying they were there to investigate the quality of the tap water. If allowed in the home, the offender will then distract the victim while accomplices sneak in and go throughout the house stealing jewelry and cash. The victims in these crimes often don't know that their belongings are missing until after the offenders are long gone.

Here are some quick tips to help prevent yourself or your neighbors from being a victim of a Ruse Entry Burglar.

Identity Misrepresentation

In scams such as these, the offenders will often identify themselves as a Village inspector or a utility company worker who is there to conduct some type of emergency work. The Village of Niles Employee or Utility Company will not enter your home if you have not called them to assist you.

Tip: Keep your screen door locked at all times, speak through the closed and locked door. If the door is opened, they person will speak quickly and attempt to walk passed you.

Home Repair Scams

In one of the most common home repair scams, the offenders will drive residential neighborhoods in an unmarked, older pick-up truck or work van. They will look for someone alone outside their home perhaps tending to the lawn. In or on the vehicle will be some construction equipment such as hand tools, buckets, ladders, etc.

Tip: Don't take home repair suggestions from someone who knocks on your door or approaches you when you are outside. If they have a business card, brochure take that information, but do not let them inside your home or get you to walk outside and away from your open door.

As a Neighbor

Keep an eye out for your elderly neighbors. If you see they have been approached by someone outside or a person comes to their front door, call the 911. Report any suspicious persons walking around the neighborhood.