



NILES POLICE DEPARTMENT

MEDIA RELEASE

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Ruse Entry Burglary Prevention Tips

Niles, IL – We have experienced a few incidents in which Ruse-Entry style Burglaries have occurred. Each year the police department receives reports from homeowners who are victims of home repair frauds and ruse entry burglaries. In the most recent incidents the con artist has targeted homes in which elderly residents were outside tending to their gardening or lawn care. Here are the commonalities related to the most recent incidents.

The con artists usually work in pairs; one person approaches a resident because they observed that their attached garage or side screen door appeared to be unlocked. The con artist would engage the elderly resident in conversation and move them either away from the doorway, by bringing them to the other side of the home. Once that occurs the other con artist would brazenly enter the home and look for valuables, wallets, purses and jewelry. They will quickly exit and then call or two-radio to the other con artist that they can leave. The con artist talking to the resident would then abruptly leave.

Here are some quick tips:

Tip #1: 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.

Tip #2: 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 or brochure take that information, but do not let them inside your home or get you to walk outside and away from your open door.

Tip #3: 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.

Tip #4: When in doubt – Call the police, let us investigate if they are a legitimate business person who is permitted to be doing door to door solicitation.