



Bureau of Detectives – Area Central

Community Alert



Alert P16-1-040CA
February 3, 2016

Ruse Burglary 009th District (Deering)

About the Crime:

This alert gives notice to citizens residing in the 009th District (Deering) of ruse burglary incidents which have occurred during the months of January and February. Suspect(s) drove around residential neighborhoods looking for elderly persons outside their home or in their homes. Once located, the offender(s) approached a potential victim and claimed to be utility workers, city employees, cable TV technicians or contractors. The suspects then gained entry to the residence using the ruse of checking for a potential alleged problem (water pressure, fuses, wires, pipes, fence line issues, etc.) or needing something (bucket of water, a drink of water, use of the phone, etc.). Once inside the home, one of the suspects kept the victim distracted or lured them outside of the residence to ask a question. Then one or more additional suspects knowingly entered the home and committed the theft, generally targeting cash and jewelry.

Incident times and locations:

3200 Block of S. Parnell Ave on January 17, 2016 at 1:52 P.M.
2900 Block of S. Throop St on February 1, 2016 at 3:50 P.M.

What you can do:

The first line of defense against these offender(s) is to be vigilant and report anything out of the ordinary. If you see a person or car in the area you don't recognize, safely take note of the vehicle description, license plate, and call 911. Police would rather respond to a false alarm than miss an opportunity to apprehend these burglars. We aggressively pursue these felons who prey on the elderly.

Below are a few additional reminders:

- Never allow anyone inside your home without a prescheduled appointment
- If an individual claims affiliation with your local government, ask the person to produce identification and call the government office to verify the individual
- Do not exit your home with an unscheduled visitor, leaving your home and valuables as potential targets
- Keep an extra watch on elderly neighbors and family members reminding them of these types of criminal behaviors
- Educate your relatives and neighbors (especially the elderly), informing them ruse burglaries are on the rise.
- Immediately report any suspicious activity by calling 911.

If you have any information Contact the Bureau of Detectives – Area Central
(312) 747-8382

HZ-118892, HZ-136824