

Tinley Park Police Department

COMMUNITY ALERT

RUSE BURGLARIES

Ruse burglaries are usually committed by offenders working in pairs. One offender uses a distraction (Ruse) to keep the victim's attention diverted while the second offender enters the home to steal valuables, typically cash or jewelry. Ruse burglaries of ten are targeted towards senior citizens and people living alone.

COMMON RUSE THEMES

- ✓ Utility problems such as water, gas, or electric problems that must be addressed immediately.
- ✓ Property line issues, i.e., they are building a fence for the neighbor and need to check your property line with the victim thus leaving the residence unattended.
- ✓ Unsolicited offer off work on your home or property, i.e., they have extra blacktop and can seal the driveway, roof, gutters, etc.
- ✓ Asking questions about homes for sale in the area.
- ✓ Offenders may say they are friends of the previous owner or a family member.

SAFETY TIPS

- Do not let anyone into your home you do not know or did not schedule to be there
- Ask for ID, no legitimate utility worker will object to providing ID
- Never leave your door unlocked/ unattended
- Safeguard valuables in a safe if possible
- Note the vehicles being used as most public works vehicles are clearly marked
- You can verify utility emergencies by calling your municipality or 911
- Never confront any suspected offenders
- If you suspect you are being targeted remain safe and call 911. Getting pictures of vehicles, writing down license plates or descriptions of the offenders may be helpful to the police if it can be done safely.
- Offenders are known to wear fluorescent safety vests and use walkie talkies which helps them look like public works employees (always verify the work request with your municipality before letting anyone inside the home)

**If you have seen suspicious vehicles and/or subjects approaching neighbors, or you feel you were the victim of a ruse burglary, please dial 911.
For any non-emergencies issues, please call 708-532-9111.**