



Niles Police Department Crime Prevention

Ruse Entry Burglary Prevention

Ruse Entry Burglaries are an attempt to gain entry into someone's house through deception, usually with the intent to steal valuables or cash money kept in a house. Senior citizens are often targeted by these groups during daylight hours. Offenders usually will pose as outside workers, such as surveyors, utility company workers or city water department employees or tree trimmers, to get homeowners outside and lure them away from the front entrance. Once the homeowner is outside the home, another offender will sneak inside the home to snatch small items, such as jewelry, flatware or cash. A few tips to keep you safe



Prevention Tips:

- When you hear the knock at the door or the doorbell rings? **Are you expecting someone?**
- If you're not sure who is at your door, **don't open it!** Check the identity of the caller by calling the company they are purporting to be from i.e.; Gas, Electricity, Water, Cable, Police. Use the telephone numbers listed in your local directory or provided independently by your service provider. Do not use any telephone numbers provided by the caller, they may be bogus! Do not open the door. Do everything with the door locked.
- Many utility service providers will call prior to arriving at your home. In many cases the caller will be the technician who is will be arriving. Ask them for their name ahead of time.
- Safe guard valuables: Lock up cash, jewelry or place them in a safe deposit box.
- **Keep doors locked and windows secure at all times.**
- If somebody asks for your help, needs to make a telephone call, refer them to a younger neighbor or assist them through a closed door. Or call a friend or neighbor to come and assist.
- Secure documents containing personal details locked up, such as a passport, utility bills, bank statements etc.
- Make sure you keep your keys in a safe place and not on display.



When to call the police:

- If you are suspicious or it just doesn't "feel" right..
- If someone forces entry or enters your home without permission.
- You notice valuables or money have gone missing shortly after someone has visited.
- Whenever you think a crime has been, or is about to be, committed.



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