



News Release

West Covina Police Department

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Distraction Burglaries Advisory

Case No. 12-1266, 12-4063, 12-4376, 12-4446

DATE OF RELEASE: June 14, 2012

The West Covina Police is issuing this public service advisory warning its residents about distraction burglaries that have been occurring in West Covina.

Distraction burglaries are described as when a male or female suspect knocks on the door of the victim's residence and identifies themselves as either a worker or contractor asking if you could accompany them to the backyard regarding work that needs to be performed. While the suspect distracts the victim by showing what works need to be performed, another suspect enters the house through the front door and searches for valuables, usually money and jewelry.

There have been 4 such burglaries reported since February, 2012, with the most recent reported on June 7, 2012.

2/11/12 @ 1500 hrs 200 Block N. Lang, West Covina Victim: 87 yr old female

Suspect: M/H 30, Goatee

Loss: Safe, Passport, money, jewelry

5/14/12 @ 1520 hrs 1800 Block E. Merced Ave, West Covina Victim: 91 yr old female

Suspect: M/H 40-50, 210-225, 5'10-6', Med build, wearing painter clothes, baseball cap

Suspect 2 and 3: M/H, 30-40, Med build

Loss: Money

6/5/12 @ 1725 hrs 2900 Block E. Pinefalls, West Covina Victim: 84 & 63 yr old female

Suspect: M/H 40-50, 5'2 Thin build, Gray hair

Suspect 2: M/H 50, 5'5, Med, Gray hair

Suspect 3: M/H 35-40, 5'5 thin build, Black hair

Loss: Money, Jewelry

6/7/12 @1600 hrs 1400 Block E. Verness, West Covina Victim: 73 yr old female

Suspect: M/H 50, 5'8, Heavy set, Black hair, wearing jean overalls

Loss: Money

In the above cases, the suspects said they were workers or contractors that needed to get into the backyard to cut trees, repair or build a back wall and request that the homeowner accompany them to the back yard.

The West Covina Police Department recommends that if you are contacted by anyone requesting to enter your backyard for a service you have not requested, demand identification and the name of the company they are working for. If you are alone, call for a neighbor to assist you before allowing anyone into your home or yard. If you feel that the situation is suspicious, contact the police department.

Press Release issued by Corporal Rudy Lopez, PIO. For more information, call 626 939-8685 or 626 523-4031 (cell).

Approved by _____ Date: _____