



RIVER FOREST CRIME PREVENTION UNIT COMMUNITY ALERT BULLETIN



INFORMATION OF INTEREST IN OUR COMMUNITY

★ Ruse Burglaries and Home Repair Fraud ★

What is Home Repair Fraud?

Home Repair Fraud is a deceptive practice in which the offender offers low prices from “leftover” materials or charges exorbitant amounts to uneducated residents for substandard work. The offender is usually gone with the victim’s cash payment before they realize they have been scammed.

What is a Ruse Burglary?

Ruse Burglaries can be directly related to Home Repair Fraud. They usually involve an offender distracting the home owner (often with a fraudulent sales pitch for some supposed work that needs to be done on the property) while their accomplice(s) gain access to the home and commit a burglary. The offender may ask the victim to come inspect property that needs work or concoct some other diversion. Our department is investigating (2) recent reported incidents of Ruse Burglaries (1 successful and 1 attempted).

Aggressive Solicitors

Recently we have had reports of solicitors from apparently legitimate companies who use tactics that can be described as disingenuous or aggressive to earn clients. These sales pitches, similar to that of Home Repair Frauds, involve the solicitor engaging in convincing conversation to gain the resident’s trust and possibly lying about work they have done for neighbors in the area. Note: RFPD recently cited several solicitors engaging in this activity that were not registered with the village.

Now that we have identified the problem, see page two to learn what you can do about it.



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Tips to Avoid a Ruse Burglary or Other Homeowner Scams:

- ★ Don't unlock your door for solicitors and **NEVER** let them into your home.
 - ★ Do your own research on their company: Internet Search, Better Business Bureau, Consumer Reports, Etc.
 - ★ Never exit your home to inspect property with solicitor or allow unsolicited repairs on the spot.
 - ★ Trust your instincts. When in doubt, call 911.
 - ★ **If you didn't expect them, don't accept them.**
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Where Can I Learn More?

The topics of ruse burglaries, home repair scams, fraud and other scams have been widely covered by our department in recorded webinars, community meetings, printable worksheets and bulletins. For additional information, sign up for E-News & Alerts and view archived resources at www.vrf.us.

IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING. For any questions or information, please contact RFPD at 708-366-7215.