



EL SEGUNDO POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

January 22, 2008

Home Repair Scam Alert

Home repair scams have reared their ugly head again in our community, particularly ones targeting elderly residents. Recently, there was an incident reported involving roof repairs that were "forced" on an elderly victim. In these types of scams, the suspect generally comes to the door and tells the resident that they had installed the roof on their house many years ago, and was returning to do necessary upkeep or repairs (or, specifically in our most recent case, the suspect told the elderly resident that he could see shingles loose and the roof obviously needed repair).

Typically, if the resident expresses doubt, or refuses the repairs, the con artist uses any number of stories to convince the resident to give him access to the house or roof. Repairs are generally never done, or if "work" is done, it is superficial and most likely not needed in the first place.

In the incident that occurred on January 9, 2008, Suspect #1 was described as a male, white, 5'11", medium build, 50 years old, black un-kept hair, unshaven, wearing jeans. Suspect #2 was described as a female, white, 5'7", medium build, 33 years old, medium length dark wavy hair. In this case, the male suspect walked out of sight in the residence while the female suspect distracted the victim. Cash and jewelry were later discovered missing after the suspects left assuring the victim she had just received a free inspection of her roof. Instead, she had items stolen from her bedroom.

BEWARE of any repair persons who come to your door unsolicited. Call the police if you believe someone is trying to scam you or pressure you into paying for repairs that you do not want or need. If you have any information regarding this or similar cases, please contact Detective Mulroney at (310) 524-2277 and refer to case #08-0093.