



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DECEPTION BURGLARIES BLOSSOM IN THE SPRING

[Lancaster, Ohio, April 28, 2010] The Fairfield County Sheriff's Office is taking a proactive approach to alerting its citizens to certain crime trends that have occurred throughout the county in recent years. Unfortunately, this is the time when these types of crimes are known to occur.

Suspects posing as legitimate workers approach elderly homeowners at their residence with the intent of gaining entry under seemingly legitimate role: local gas company, water department, cable company, tree trimming service, pavers or government officials. One suspect will distract the homeowner while a second suspect will enter the home and search inside for valuables and cash. In other circumstances suspects will knock at the door looking for a certain road or someone that has a car for sale, and when no one answers the door they break into the home.

Be particularly alert to anyone in your neighborhood looking to perform home repairs, or asking to gain entry into your home. Be sure you see some type of identification and let them know you are going to call and verify their story with the company. If they are legitimate they will not mind waiting.

"Do not hesitate to call the Sheriff's Office if you have any questions about individuals in your neighborhood," stated Sheriff Dave Phalen.

If you meet a burglar face to face in your home, follow these safety tips:

1. Remember most burglaries are not crimes of violence and the perpetrators are more interested in properties than causing harm.
2. Remain calm and do not attempt any violent confrontation.
3. Try leaving the home, if possible. If not, secure yourself in a room. Call 9-1-1 immediately.