

Neighborhood Crime Watch Scam Alert

April 16, 2009....Shirley, Purvitis, our IMPD Neighborhood Crime Watch liaison sent the following alert information to our Crime Watch Chairperson, Judy Richards Leavitt.

I have received information on a possible scam working in the Indianapolis area. The suspect, usually a male, often approaches elderly people, especially widows, either in grocery stores or by going from door to door in a truck pretending to be a concrete worker and/or a repair man (he will fit his ability to the type of job he sees needs to be done). The man then obtains the victims' addresses and sets up appointments or other times just drops by the homes. I'm told if no one answers the door, he will burglarize the home. If he receives an answer, he tells the person he came by to look at the job and give an estimate. Very often, he is supposed to have a woman with him. Again, if no one answers, they burglarize the home. If they get an answer, he advises he is there to look at the job and give them an estimate. In these cases the woman tells him she must use the restroom and will she drive her to a nearby service station and/or fast food location. The victim, often elderly, then offers to allow the woman to use the restroom. While the victim is out with the male subject looking at the job and giving them an estimate, the woman is inside stealing jewelry, cash, and other small items the victim will not miss until later.

If you hear or anyone being approached by this guy or have any concerns please feel free to contact me.

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