

Community Alert

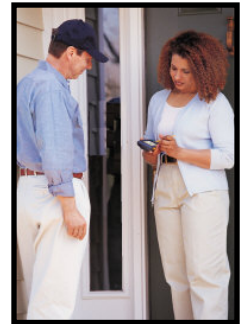
Provided by: DeKalb County Police Department to Promote Crime Awareness

20 February 2009

Be Aware of Door to Door “Scams”

Recently there have been reports made on persons going door to door in communities possibly scamming residents to get cash without providing a service or presenting themselves to be in need.

In the past, subjects have approached residents with unsolicited home improvements or construction projects. They may be driving a work-style truck or van with no markings. They may even quote a price for their services, but do not give you a written estimate, then ask for a check or deposit up front and never return to provide the mentioned service.



Recently there have been reports of subjects stating that they are in need of assistance. You may hear the following:

*“My wife’s car broke down, can I use your phone to call a wrecker?” or
“I only have half the money, can I get some money for the wrecker?” or
“My family needs money for food.” or “I’m looking for Jane Doe’s house”*

Our elderly family members and friends are perceived to be more likely victims to such scammers. So make sure you communicate with them regularly about these types of scams and offer to assist with home maintenance and other salesmen situations.

Those who have been victimized and have not reported the incidents, reports should be made as soon as possible.

Ways to possibly avoid becoming a victim:

- Do not agree to unsolicited services to be performed on your property
- Ask for contact information, send them away and check out the company and/or individual with the police
- Call **911** for persons asking to use your phone or needing assistance
- **NEVER** offer to drive a stranger or ride in their vehicle to assist them
- Continue to communicate through your Neighborhood Watch program to keep others alert to suspicious activity

*** Remember if you don’t inform the Police, the Police don’t know what’s happening in your neighborhood. ***



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