

# Ruse Burglaries

Recently there has been an increase in “ruse” type burglaries in surrounding towns and all over Chicagoland. In these instances, subjects have attempted to enter an occupied house by saying they were checking on a utility. They wear safety/reflective vests and make it appear that they are from the city or county municipal services. Sometimes they have fraudulent credentials as well and can be very pushy.

While one offender keeps the homeowner occupied, one or more offenders enter the home and committs a burglary, all while the homeowner is unaware. Sometimes they will even try to get the homeowner to come outside and look at the property line or say they are doing work on a neighbor’s house. These criminals often target senior citizens. They usually go to the bedrooms and steal jewelry, money and other valuables. Sometimes these burglars use different storylines or excuses to try and get into a house.

Some story lines the offenders may use are:

- Water problems, need to check the water, Covid in the water
- Electrical problems or gas leaks
- Offers to repair gutters/fences or tree trimming and landscaping
- Blacktop/driveway repair
- Roof repair, cracks in foundation
- False statements about problems at a neighbor’s house
- Inquiries about homes for sale in the neighborhood.

If anyone comes to your house and you don’t know them or did not have an appointment, you do NOT have to let them in. Lock your doors and call 9-1-1 immediately. The police can come out and confirm if they are legitimate or not. No one from the city is checking problems inside your house, unless you called and made an appointment, and none of them will ask for entry into your home without an appointment ahead of time.

We are asking you take the following precautions to protect yourself:

- Even if the person(s) appear to be a city employee or utility worker, if you're not 100% certain, please call 9-1-1 to confirm
- Don't leave any doors unlocked
- Arm your security system, even if it's just for a few minutes
- Watch for suspicious vehicles parked in driveways
- Solicitors MUST have a permit from the City of Darien and it must be on their person
- Do NOT answer the door if you don't know who it is

We are urging our residents to be aware of their surrounding and report ANY suspicious people, vehicles, or activities when they are occurring. Please call 9-1-1 immediately in order to get the police out to you as soon as possible. It also helps the police to try and identify the individuals committing these crimes.