

Community Crime Alert – Recent Increase in Residential Burglaries – VPD Advises Community Members to Immediately Report Suspicious Activity/Persons

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Incident: Community Crime Alert – Recent Increase in Residential Burglaries – VPD Advises Community Members to Immediately Report Suspicious Activity/Persons

Contact: Cmdr Darin Schindler 805.339.4341

Location: Multiple locations throughout the City of Ventura.

Date/Time Occurred: May 6, 2014 to May 13, 2014

Officer(s) Involved: Ventura Police Patrol Officers

Victim(s): Numerous Ventura residents

Suspect(s): Unknown

Report #s: Numerous

Narrative:

Over the last week (May 6, 2014 to May 13, 2014) our department has seen an increase in the number of residential Burglaries being committed throughout the City of Ventura. On average our department may see between 6 to 8 Residential Burglaries over the course of a seven day period however, over the last seven day period we saw a spike in the number of Residential Burglaries committed to 16.

Of the 16 incidents: 7 were via no force (unlocked or open doors/windows/garages), 4 were via force (window smash, door pry) and the remaining 5 incidents were listed as “unknown” method of entry. The vast majority of incidents, 11, occurred during the daytime hours, 2 took place during the nighttime hours, and the remaining 3 incidents were unknown time of day. Days of the week were 12 weekday, 1 weekend, and 3 unknown day of week.

It is believed that the individuals committing the crimes vary from re-offending parolees, juveniles, drug offenders, or even individuals who live in other cities that come into Ventura to commit these types of crimes. In some cases there may only be one suspect responsible for the commission of the crime however, it is also common wherein individuals work in groups of two to four people. **In the most recent cases suspects are going door to door asking if an individual is home, or with offers of handyman/contracting type services or magazine sales to anyone who is home.** When they don't get an answer, they walk around to the side yards or backyards. First they look for open doors, windows, garage doors, or even doggy doors to gain entry through. As a last resort they will break a small window to gain access usually to the rear of a residence. The suspect(s) typically look for easy items to grab and walk away with. Items include money, small electronics, laptop computers, gaming systems(X Box, Playstation) jewelry, personal documents, guns, etc.

Naturally, nobody is immune to crime but there are steps you can take to decrease your chances of becoming a victim and to help increase the vigilance within our community.

First and foremost, we urge community members to be observant and to immediately report any and all suspicious activity to us at 805-650-8010 (24 hr. non-emergency number) or 911 in the event of an emergency.

Please report suspicious subjects knocking at your door and report all solicitors that appear to be suspicious or unlicensed. (Please note: Door-to-door sales people in the City of Ventura must have a business license issued by the City and to have registered in person with our department. The following link provides information on door-to-door permits, licenses, and the process. <http://www.cityofventura.net/businesslicense#door>)

Always lock and close your doors and windows, yes, even when you're home.

Do not leave your garage door open or unlocked if you are not in the immediate area.

Set your alarm if you have one.

Install quality locks on doors and windows.

Lighting is one of the best deterrents to burglary - indoor and outdoor lighting is important.

Don't let strangers into your home - this includes workers and others - if you are not with them or do not know them.

Talk to your family, friends, and neighbors and get involved in a Neighborhood Watch program. In an effort to facilitate a virtual Neighborhood Watch program and help foster neighbor-to-neighbor communications, our department has partnered with Nextdoor.com, a private social network for neighborhoods. Information on Nextdoor.com is available on the department's website at www.venturapd.org.

View various Calls For Service via the department's Interactive Crime Map at: www.cityofventura.net/pd/crime/calls

Connect and keep up with our department as we issue crime alerts, press releases, crime maps, and other valuable crime and safety information by following us on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/venturapd, or visit our website at: www.venturapd.org.

Working together we can make a difference in our community.