

7/24/06 – Home Construction Site Burglaries Continue

This is the third crime alert on this type of crime in our area. We need your help in identifying suspects and vehicles in this series of crimes.

We would like to make all Peninsula residents aware of the continuing series of thefts from new home construction sites throughout the area. Most of the thefts are occurring at night, but are not limited to the late hours. Some witnesses have reported seeing a white cube truck, similar to the types of trucks used by U-Haul and Ryder, but all of our active burglaries are not necessarily tied to this particular type of vehicle.

We are seeking your help in stopping this series of crimes in our community.

There are three distinctive types of burglars operating in the Peninsula area. The following information is provided to assist you, as a citizen, to determine when you are watching a suspicious situation.

The first distinctive group of burglars are the metal scrappers. These are the burglars typically driving junky trucks and cars and they target home construction sites for the plumbing and electrical systems. Easily accessible spools of wire are taken and some scrappers even go as far as cutting the pipes and wires out of the walls.

Convenience thieves are the second group of burglars working in our area. They drive whatever car or vehicle they have access to and they prowl new home construction sites for anything of value laying around unattended. This group may also target vehicles in a parking lot or finished homes. What they look for are items that are easy to get, quick to get and will bring in a cash value.

The last group of thieves, the focused thieves, are the ones most likely to use the cube trucks. There may also be a second vehicle in the area operating as a lookout. These thieves are the ones looking for large items, such as appliances or shower enclosures.

Even though these groups in operate in different methods and target different items, there are some commonalities in their crimes. They will commit their crimes during times contractors typically do not work, such as early morning or late at night. They will commit their crimes during lunch breaks, when the site is unattended. They also use holidays and weekends as a way for their crimes to go undetected for a longer period of time.

If you see people or vehicles at a construction site, specifically after working hours, take a moment to watch what they are doing.

People walking around the site discussing the layout of the home may not be suspicious, they may be in the market to buy a new home. People carrying items from the site and loading them into a vehicle may be suspicious, and you may be watching a crime in progress. The key is for you to notice what the people are doing and whether it seems suspicious.

If you determine activity looks suspicious, call 9-1-1 or the non-emergency number 798-4721 and press option 1. You may also call our office at 798-4940 during normal business hours.