



City of Downey

FUTURE UNLIMITED

PRESS RELEASE

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Home Safety

The Downey Police Department would like to caution the residents of Downey to be wary of people going door-to-door posing as construction workers, claiming to be conducting business in their neighborhood.

In recent months, several local cities have had reports of thefts by people claiming to be construction workers. Frequently, during these incidents a suspect will come to the front door, claiming to be working in the area, thus needing access to the resident's backyard to look at a fence line or power pole. While in the backyard, the suspect will distract the homeowner, and a second person will access the home, taking valuables before fleeing. This type of ruse is becoming more prevalent and Downey residents should take precautions to protect themselves and their property.

To avoid becoming a victim of this type of incident, residents are encouraged to follow these safety tips:

- Never allow strangers, such as sales people or construction workers into your house or backyard unless they are scheduled to be there through a pre-existing appointment
- Make sure anyone claiming to be from a business or organization provides proper identification from the company they represent (ie. Southern California Edison, Gas Company identifications, cable companies, etc.)
- Don't allow yourself to be distracted by individuals that come to your door, giving their partners an opportunity to access your property
- Always keep your doors and other access points locked when you are in your backyard or garage
- Be cautious about opening your door for strangers

Most importantly, report any suspicious persons in your neighborhood to the police. Anyone with questions regarding how you can make your home and property more secure is encouraged to contact Downey Police Detective Mark Galindo at (562) 904-2326 or Detective Jerry Price at (562) 904-2359.