



City of Sacramento
Police Department

News Release

May 16, 2008
For Immediate Release
Release No. 051608-78

Media Relations Office
916 808.0808 / F: 916 808.0829

Capt. Jeff Schiele
Sgt. Matt Young
Ofc. Michelle Lazark
Ofc. Konrad VonSchoech
PIC Audrey Lee

Elder Scam Alert

The Sacramento Police Department wants to make the public aware of a scam targeting Sacramento senior citizens.


On Tuesday, May 6, 2008, scam artists posing as “Sacramento Water Works” employees approached an elderly couple at their home and stated they were there to investigate a water supply issue in the neighborhood. The suspects asked if they could go inside the house to check the water pipes. Once inside the house, one suspect asked the homeowners to run the water, keeping them occupied while the other suspect ransacked the home. The suspects stole cash and walked out of the house.

This crime occurred in the Downtown area. Similar incidents were reported last year in the Oak Park and North areas of the City.

According to the Department of Utilities, “Sacramento Water Works” does not exist. Employees of the Department of Utilities are required to wear identification badges bearing their name and photo. Legitimate employees wear shirts (usually orange) with the utilities logo on the left side. They drive a city vehicle with the city logo on the door and they will rarely ask to come inside a residence. Any work that needs to be done usually can be done from the outside. If for some reason a legitimate Utilities worker needs to go inside a residence, it should be prearranged through the Department of Utilities.

Anyone with information regarding this crime, or who has observed suspicious behavior consistent with the scam, is urged to contact the Sacramento Police Department at (916) 264-5471.

Sacramento Police Department – 5770 Freeport Boulevard, Suite 100 – Sacramento, California 95822

916 264-5471  **CALL** 我們講中文 • Hablamos Español • Мы говорим по-русски • ພວກເຮົາເວົ້າພາສາລາວໄດ້ • Peb hais lus Hmoob • Chúng tôi nói tiếng Việt