



LAKEWOOD POLICE DEPARTMENT

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What is a Distraction Burglary?

Burglars are always finding new tricks and methods when it comes to burglarizing a home. One method that they use is known as the “distraction” burglary. A distraction burglary often occurs when someone that you most likely do not know comes to your home. This person knocks on your door or approaches you outside and lies to you about who they are and why they are there.

They may claim to be a utility worker, or even a city employee. They will try to convince you that they need to get into your home to inspect it, or make some emergency repairs. They may even lead you outside of your home to point some fake problem out while an unseen accomplice sneaks into your home while you are distracted. They may be driving what looks like a real work or utility repair truck.

Sometimes they try to take advantage of your kindness and ask to use your phone, borrow some gasoline, or use the bathroom.

The most frequent targets for these types of crimes are the elderly , or other vulnerable citizens .

These thieves will steal whatever they can get their hands on. They are particularly looking for cash, jewelry, electronics and car keys.

Recommended Tips

- If you did not call for service, or do not know the person, do not open the door. Call the Lakewood Police Department. A police officer will come out to your house and verify the person’s identity and their reason for being there.
- Don’t fall for counterfeit credentials or identification cards. These can be faked also . Call the police just to be sure if your are not comfortable.
- Don’t be afraid to be rude! You are not obligated to open the door for anyone you don’t know.
- Make neighbors aware of what happened so they can look out for similar schemes.

Recently these crimes have been happening in several cities around Lakewood. Do not let yourself become a victim. You can call the Lakewood Police at the non emergency number at 216-521-6773. If it requires an emergency response, call 911 or 216-521-1234.