

# ALERT BULLETIN

## Door-to-Door Scams



**Don't Be A Victim!**

## DOOR-TO-DOOR SCAMS

### TYPE OF SCAM

Recently, a Village of Lisle resident reported that someone (scammer) came to his door offering to do some home repair work. The scammer wanted to come into his home to discuss the needed repairs.

### DESCRIPTION OF THE SCAMS

These scammers tend to target homes typically owned by senior citizens. However, anyone can be a target of these scammers. Homes are targeted by the following characteristics: style of drapes, lesser maintained lawns, single garbage cans, and four-door sedans. Listed below is a synopsis of some of the more common door-to-door scams.

#### The Sealcoat Scam

These scammers will drive around residential areas trying to sell a quick sealcoating job to residents who are outside the home. They may indicate they have leftover sealer from their last job and want to get rid of the sealer. These individuals insist on doing the job that day or have their victims make a down payment for future service (which does not occur). The price on the sealcoat scam tends to range from low to high. These scammers tend to use a sticky oil based sealer called Gilsonite or dilute the product with kerosene, gasoline, or other petroleum distillates. The sealcoat tends to become flakey or uneven after several days. The sealcoat does not last very long.

#### The Home Repair Fraud

These types of scammers have a habit of scanning residential neighborhoods in hopes of finding a person outside his or her home. Once located, the suspect(s) approach the person and



recommend urgent home repair work. *One such scamming occurring in the Village of Lisle at this time is the siding and roofing scam.* The suspects use a range of pricing depending on the responses of the victim. The price is often negotiated and the performed work is usually substandard in nature. If the opportunity arises, the suspects may commit a residential burglary to the home by distracting the homeowner while the others enter through another door or while they are searching for further problems.

### [The Ruse Entry \(Burglary\)](#)

In instances of ruse entries, the scammers offer false identification such as a utility worker, city employee, or a contractor and may dress and act the part. The suspect(s) enter the home using the ruse of “checking something” such as water pressure, pipes, gas lines, and fuses. While one scammer keeps the victim distracted inside or outside the house, another accomplice makes entry into the home and commits a burglary.

### **WHAT THE SCAMMER WANT\$**

**MONEY!** And they will stop at nothing to get as much of your money as possible.

### **YOUR RESPONSE**

Never let anyone in your home. If they need assistance, tell them to wait outside as you call the police to assist them. If they are with a utility company, call the utility company to verify the work (do not use the number the worker gives you). Verify a number using the internet or phone book.

If you are approached while you are outside, do not let anyone onto your property to look around. This will give the suspects an opportunity to look for open doors and windows and then distract you.

These individuals tend to keep the conversation going to distract you or to convince you to buy their service. These scammers will

press a sense of urgency; and may end the conversation quickly.

Write down the license plate number, note the direction of travel, and call the police.

### [Important Facts to Remember](#)

When dealing with people who are involved with these scams, it is important to know how to recognize the potential warning signs. Here is a list of indicators suggesting you may be facing one of these scammers:

- No company name on truck or it has a small inexpensive sign (the name and number on the sign will be false)
- Out of state license plates
- No written price quote for work to be performed
- Cash only or advanced down payments with check or cash
- No business cards
- Cheap looking flyer or brochure
- Knocking on doors to get business (all adult solicitors are required to have a Village issued solicitor badge)
- Hanging signs on telephone poles to attract customers

***One of the best ways to stop crime is to prevent it from occurring. When in doubt, call the Lisle Police Department to check out the circumstances.***

### **Further Information or Report an Incident Contact**

**Lisle Police Department at 630-271-4200 or 911**

**This bulletin was prepared by the  
Volunteers In Police Services Unit of the  
Lisle Police Department**