

New Castle County Police Department



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NEWS RELEASE

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NCCPD Warns Residents of "Distraction Burglaries"

The New Castle County Police are currently investigating a distraction burglary that occurred Friday (10/10), during the afternoon hours, in the neighborhood of Swanwyck Estates. A distraction burglary occurs when a visitor or salesman comes to your home and offers to do home improvements, or wants to alert you of a problem at your home.

(New Castle, DE. 19720) On October 10, 2014, New Castle County Patrol Officers responded to the unit block of Varmar Drive in the community of Swanwyck Estates in reference to a reported distraction burglary. The victim reported a male informed her that a fence in the rear of her property was over the property line and needed to be moved. The victim exited her residence for a short time and when she returned noticed property was missing.

The victim was recently able to assist investigating detectives with a composite sketch:



Some of the most common scams are to pave driveways, seal roofs, trim trees, or paint houses with materials that wash off in days or weeks. They will also act as utility workers or other service employees as a ruse to gain access to your residence. In some cases the scammers will lure the homeowner outside of the residence to show them the problem that needs to be corrected. While distracted outside the residence, an accomplice who is unseen by the victim, will enter the home and steal cash, jewelry, or electronics.

If you have been victimized, or the victim of an attempted scam, please call the New Castle County Police at 302-573-2800 immediately. Descriptions of suspects and the vehicles they are operating are very helpful to detectives as they investigate these crimes.

Follow these helpful tips that can help you from becoming a victim:

- *If you're not sure who the person is behind your door, don't open it!*
- *If you are successfully lured outside of your home, make sure to lock the door behind you. Most importantly, make sure all entryways leading into your home are locked as well. This includes doors, windows, and the garage.*

- *If the “con” is so convincing, call a neighbor or friend nearby to come along and check the perimeter of your home, or check on the visitor before opening your door.*
- *If the deal sounds too good to be true it probably is.*
- *Any person who solicits door-to-door sales to a residential home in the State of Delaware is now required to display a Salesperson Identification Card (ID card). To verify that the Salesperson ID Card is not a forgery, the names of all Salesperson ID Card holders will be available on the Division of Revenue website at www.revenue.delaware.gov.*

We advise all residents to request proper identification from these individuals before letting them into your home. As always, residents are encouraged to report any suspicious vehicles and persons to the police immediately by calling 9-1-1.

If you were a witness to the above mentioned burglary, have surveillance video in the area, or believe you have been a victim of these types of distraction burglaries, or are a witness that can offer information regarding these crimes, please call the New Castle County Police Department at 302-573-2800. Citizens can also visit our website at www.nccpd.com. Tipsters may also call Crime Stoppers at (800) TIP-3333 or visit us on Facebook at New Castle County Police Department. Citizens who currently have the smartphone application are encouraged to use the “submit tip” tab to submit tips. Select a topic by using the “drop down” and complete the tip by “clicking” submit. The New Castle County Police Smartphone Application is free to download and available for all iPhone and Android smartphones.

In the event of an emergency, citizens are urged to always call 9-1-1.