



Public Safety Advisory



Over the past couple months, the Richmond and Taraval District Police Stations received numerous reports of two (sometimes three) males impersonating Public Utilities Commission (PUC) employees. In each of these incidents the suspects knocked on a victim's door and identified themselves as Utility and Water Department employees. Suspects directed the victims to run water, or bang on pipes, telling the victims that they are testing the water. While the residents were preoccupied, one suspect searched for money and jewelry.

The suspects are described as Hispanic between 35-50 years of age. On some occasions they were wearing blue uniform-type shirts, on another occasion the suspects were wearing dark clothes or reflectorized vests with an identification card on the front left side of the jacket. They were seen leaving in older cars: a yellow colored van and a black pickup truck.

Crime preventions tips to reduce your risk of home invasions:

- Insist on seeing the photo identification card of anyone who claims to be a service person representing some type of utility company (such as gas and electric, water department, telephone company or cable company). You do not have to let the person in — you can see if the person has proper identification through a 180 degree wide angle viewer on your front door. If in doubt, look up the company in the phone book, on the Internet or call 3-1-1.
- Large sums of money, fine jewelry and important documents such as passports, birth certificates, and green cards should be placed in a bank safety deposit box for safekeeping. Burglars and robbers always check the bed and dresser drawers for hidden valuables.
- Never discuss personal assets in public. Someone may overhear your conversation and act on the information.
- In the event of an emergency, call 9-1-1. Call the police at 415/553-0123 if it is not an emergency.

Remember:

- SFPUC employees drive green trucks displaying the city seal and the PUC emblem.
- SFPUC employees do not ask for access to a property owner's pipes, or shut off valves without having an appointment. Do not let anyone into your home unless you are expecting them.
- Call 415-551-3000 with any questions or concerns about SFPUC staff activities on your property.

If you are interested in starting a Neighborhood Watch, contact SF SAFE at 415/553-1984 or visit www.sfsafe.org.