THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

NEWS RELEASE

Police Department

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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SDPD WARNS RESIDENTS ABOUT BURGLARY SCAM

(San Diego) The San Diego Police Department is warning residents about a male suspect who is using a ruse to gain entry into homes and steal items.

Three cases have been reported in the past two weeks; the first was in Mid City on Aragon Drive; one occurred in Serra Mesa on Amulet Street on September 24, 2007 and the third also occurred on September 24 in Allied Gardens on Glenroy Street.

The victims say that a male comes to the door wearing a uniform similar to a mechanics uniform. He says he is with the city of San Diego Wastewater Department (or sewer department) and asks to check the plumbing or water pressure inside the residence. When the resident is distracted, he steals jewelry, wallets and cash from the residence.

The suspect is described as a Hispanic male, 35 – 40 years, 5'6" to 6' tall and clean shaven.

Only in extraordinary circumstances will a city of San Diego Metropolitan Wastewater employee need to gain access to the inside of a residence. The vast majority of their work is done in the city right-of-way rather than on private property. All city employees are required to carry photo identification with them while on duty. If any person claiming to be a city employee comes to your residence asking to gain entry, ask them to produce their city identification. You can verify that the individual is an employee of Metro Wastewater by calling (858) 292-6484 during business hours or (619) 515-3525 after hours. If there is any question in your mind as to whether any individual is a city employee, call the San Diego Police Department immediately.

If you have any information on these cases, please call Eastern Division (858) 495-7900 or you may also call Crime Stoppers anonymous, toll-free tip line (888) 580-TIPS. You can remain anonymous and be eligible for a reward of up to $1000 for information leading to an arrest in these cases.

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