THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

UPDATE 11/30/07
SEE PAGE TWO

NEWS RELEASE

Police Department

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 27, 2007

CONTACT: Mónica Muñoz
(619) 531-2675

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. See page two for a composite of the suspect in this case.

One case occurred near the intersection of Encino Avenue and Murray Ridge Road on November 26, 2007 at about 11:30 a.m. The victim says that a male came to the door wearing what appeared to be a uniform. He said he was with the "Water District" and asked to check the plumbing or water pressure inside the residence. The suspect distracts the resident by having him or her fill the sink with water and stay in one part of the house while he goes to another part of the house and steals jewelry, wallets and cash.

The suspect is described as a Hispanic male, 45 – 55 years, 5'10" tall, about 150-160 lbs and clean-shaven. The suspect had buckteeth and was missing one or two of his upper teeth and he may have a tattoo on the side of his neck. He was wearing a blue baseball cap with a logo on the front, a gray jacket with no collar and gray pants.

It is rare that a city of San Diego Water Department employee would need to gain access to the inside of a residence. 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 the Water Department by calling (619) 515-3525. If there is any question in your mind as to whether any individual is a city employee, call the San Diego Police Department immediately at (619) 531-2000.

Three similar cases occurred in San Diego in September of this year but detectives say the suspect in those cases is not the same suspect as in the November 26 case. Additionally, on November 1 a man claiming to be a City Water Department employee tried to gain access to the home of an Oak Park resident. The man had no city identification and was driving a yellow vehicle with no city emblem. The resident did not allow the man into her home and notified city officials.

If you have any information on this case, please call Eastern Division (858) 495-7971 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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THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

Water Department

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, November 19, 2007

MEDIA CONTACT: Arian Collins
619-527-3121

City Water Department Warns Residents about Imposters and Potential Fraud

SAN DIEGO – The City of San Diego is warning residents to watch out for individuals posing as City Water Department employees. Typically, these imposters arrive without an appointment and try to gain entry into a home by saying they have been sent to check the home's water system or test water quality. The imposter's intent may be theft or fraud.

On Thursday, Nov. 1, a man claiming to be a City Water Department employee tried to gain access to the home of an Oak Park resident. The man reportedly had no City identification and was driving a yellow vehicle with no official City emblem. The resident did not allow the man access to her home and reported the incident to City officials who advised San Diego Police.

Similar situations such as this have occurred in other parts of San Diego County as well. On Nov. 4, the Fallbrook Public Utility District was notified by a customer about a man claiming to be a District employee asking to enter a house to do an inspection. In addition, the San Diego County Water Authority issued a warning in February 2007 after receiving reports of imposters approaching homes in the city of Santee claiming to be employees of the agency.

A legitimate City of San Diego employee will have proper identification, be willing to show it and provide a supervisor's phone number for verification. Citizens should check any phone number provided to ensure that it is legitimate. Any supposed City employee who refuses to wait while the phone number is contacted for verification should be considered a fraud and police should be notified promptly.

Report any suspicious personnel to the Police Department at their 24-hour non-emergency line at 619-531-2000 or Water Department's emergency hotline at 619-515-3525 as soon as possible.

For more information, visit the City of San Diego Water Department's web site at www.sandiego.gov/water.

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