



## Community Resources Team Crime Prevention Alert

# Deception Burglaries

The Baltimore County Police Department is advising residents to be aware of criminals that are targeting the elderly members of our communities.

The suspects will approach their elderly victims, and claim that they are from Baltimore County, the Water Department, or BGE. They will tell the victim that they need to check water, water pipes, or need to do some type of inspection. In some cases, the suspects wore bright yellow traffic vests and showed identification badges. While one suspect distracts the victim, the other suspect will enter the home and steal money, jewelry, and other valuable items.

Baltimore County Police offers the following tips to prevent deception burglaries:

- Do not allow uninvited repair workers into your home, especially if they want to fix something that you have not noticed is a problem (such as a leaky roof)
- If someone claims to be at your home for an inspection, ask for identification and contact their company prior to allowing them into your home
- Keep doors locked when possible to prevent anyone from entering your home while you are outside the house
- Call 911 immediately if someone attempts to enter your home or you suspect someone is attempting a deception burglary
- Watch for people offering services in your community and make sure to write down a description of the individuals and their vehicle, including a tag number
- Older residents and those living alone are often targeted – keep in contact with your neighbors to ensure that they are not victimized
- Always research companies before hiring them to ensure that they are legitimate companies with a good reputation

As with other crimes, you can make your neighborhood an uncomfortable place for criminals to be: **report any suspicious activity.**

If you have been victimized by this type of scam or have any questions or concerns about this article contact the Baltimore County Police Department's Community Resources Team, Officer Bryan Dietsch @ 410-887-5901 or the Economic Crimes Team, Ms. Debbie Chenoweth @ 410-887-2190.