



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

Lake County, Illinois

JOHN D. IDLEBURG
SHERIFF

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Community Policing
Working Together to Keep Lake County Safe!

"RUSE" Burglaries

**EMERGENCY
DIAL 911**

DIVISIONS

Civil Process
(847) 377-4400

Communications
(847) 549-5200

Community
Service
(847) 377-4211

Court Security
(847) 377-4911

Criminal
Investigations
(847) 377-4250

Emergency
Management
Agency
(847) 377-7100

Highway Patrol
(847) 377-7020

Jail
(847) 377-4150

Judicial Sales
(847) 377-4401

Marine Unit
(847) 587-4471

Records
(847) 377-4200

Training
(847) 377-4350

Warrants
(847) 377-4300

Work Release
(847) 377-4450

Ruse burglaries are committed by offenders generally travelling in pairs. One offender uses a 'ruse' to distract the victim, while the other offender enters the home to search for and steal cash, jewelry and other items. Ruse burglaries occur when victims are physically present at the home and distracted by a 'ruse.'

Offenders use many story lines including:

- Offering to repair gutters, fences or tree trimming and landscaping
- Blacktop, seal-coating, or driveway repair
- Inquiries about the homeowner's water supply or water pressure
- Informing the homeowner there is an electrical problem outside of the home
- Repairing unilock pavers
- False statements about problems with the neighbor's house
- Questions about homeowner's property lines
- Inquiries about homes for sale in the neighborhood

Safety Tips:

- Do not allow anyone in your home unless you know them personally or it is a scheduled appointment.
- If a solicitor comes to your residence, take notice of the vehicle they are driving (make, model, color, type) as well as their attire and physical characteristics.
- If you choose to speak with a solicitor or utility worker, never leave your front door unlocked or unattended.
- A legitimate utility or government worker will never object if you ask for ID.
- You may verify with the utility company or local government agency if the individual was sent to your residence.
- Share these tips with family, friends, neighbors and colleagues.

If you feel you were the victim of a ruse burglary or if you have seen suspicious vehicles and/or subjects approaching elderly neighbors, please call the Lake County Sheriff's Office at 847-549-5200 to report these incidents or call 911 if the incident is in progress. Please be ready to provide the offender's vehicle description and a license plate number.

"SERVING THE PEOPLE OF LAKE COUNTY WITH PRIDE"