

# SPIN

*SECURITY / POLICE INFORMATION NETWORK*

*A Crime Prevention Partnership*

## **PREVENTION**

To prevent distraction burglary, be suspicious of anyone who comes to your door under any of these guises:

- Utility worker
- Public official
- Police officer
- Firefighter
- Door-to-door salesperson
- Person asking about a lost pet
- Lost person asking for directions
- Person asking about working on the property
- Surveyor

In the case of someone claiming to be on official business, it's a good idea to ask for identification, but that can be faked. It's a better idea to call the agency and confirm that there are legitimate workers in the area. Be especially suspicious of anyone who wants access to your home. In addition, follow these other practices:

- Do not leave your purse or wallet out in the open.
- Keep jewelry and small valuables in a safe.
- Keep all doors locked. If you believe a caller has a legitimate reason to get you out of the house, pick up your key and lock the house behind you.

Elderly individuals may be targeted for the following reasons:

- They are more likely to live alone.
- They may need help in maintaining their property and may thus be especially vulnerable to those wanting to do yard work, trim trees, maintain fencing and do similar tasks.
- They may suffer from impaired cognition or judgment.
- They are often conscientious individuals who want to be cooperative.

Do your part to foil distraction burglars by passing on this information to individuals who may be targeted. If a suspicious incident occurs, report it immediately to prevent others in your area from being victimized. It is

especially important that victims do not let their embarrassment about falling for a ruse keep them from reporting the crimes. Do not let down your guard even if the person knocking on your door is female or has children in tow. This is another strategy for getting residents to relax their guard.

Source: <http://grandparents.about.com>