



## ROCKFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING  
420 West State Street  
Rockford, Illinois 61101-1288  
815-987-5800

POLICE DEPARTMENT  
CHET EPPERSON  
CHIEF OF POLICE

# INFORMATION RELEASE

**DATE & TIME**            **03/01/11 9:45 AM**

**Bureau:**                    **Field Services Bureau**

**Authorized Supervisor:**    **Sgt. Marc Welsh**

**Phone:**                    **(815)987-5041**

**Incident:**                 **Crime information**

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## MESSAGE

The Rockford Police Department has developed crime information related to Theft/Burglary incidents at private residences in Rockford. Transient groups have been committing Theft's/Burglary's at residences in the east side of Rockford by using diversion/distraction techniques. One suspect will distract the homeowner by discussing issues such as renovating a property in the area, pointing out deficiencies at the homeowner's property and many other topics while the second suspect covertly enters the residence to steal valuables. On most occasions, the homeowners do not observe the second suspect. Homeowners do not realize they are the victim of a crime until a later date. Generally, the victims of this type of criminal activity have been the elderly. The suspects in these incidents have been described as being of Hispanic or Middle Eastern decent. One of the suspect vehicles was described as a newer black sport utility type of vehicle.

To avoid becoming a victim of this type of crime, do not allow strangers into your home. Also, please report suspicious activity to the Rockford Police Department. In an emergency please call 911; for a non-emergency contact (815)966-2900.

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