

SHERIFF'S BUSINESS WATCH BULLETIN

May 2009 - a

A business burglary of an auto body repair shop occurred in the area of 2000 W. 1025 N. Farr West. The suspects pried open a door to force entry into the building sometime overnight. The owner even took the precaution of putting a metal plate over the latch but they simply bent it to force the door. They took a Genesis Diagnostic unit and 2 Porta Power units. They also stole some petty cash from an office.

Same night, unknown suspect forced entry into a business in area of 1900 S 1900 W. West Haven. This was also an auto body repair business. Entry was through a window, the owner had secured the window with a bar in it but the window was broken out and the bar was removed. They pried open a cash register but doesn't appear as if anything was taken. It appears the suspects were wearing gloves but left foot prints on debris.

We believe the above two burglaries to be linked due to the type of businesses and pattern.

Construction Burglary in the area of 1800 E 6925 N Upper Valley. Occurred between 6:30 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. Unknown suspects forced entry into a large metal container which held tools, over \$12,000 in tools were taken.

2500 S. Andover St. West Haven, 2 new homes under construction had the cooper lines stolen. No suspects. Also in area of 3500 W 2000 S. new construction, they have had several homes vandalized and appliances taken from them.

A suspicious vehicle was pulled over after being observed watching the construction site of the new Valley Elementary School in the Upper Valley. His story was his car was overheating but that was not the case. The subject was arrested on warrants and Driving on Suspension.

Two male suspects attempted to burglarize a convenience store in area of 4700 W 1200 S. Unfortunately for them they didn't know that an employee was already on site preparing to open for the day. The two smashed a window but upon seeing the employee fled from the area. Our officers noticed the business next door had outside surveillance cameras, one pointed toward the convenience store but upon checking the camera the images were too blurry to see the make of vehicle or any faces.

There were 22 orange candlestick traffic cones taken from a construction area at 3500 W 2550 S. If you see or hear of anyone with a lot of cones please give us a call.

A business owner listed a vehicle for sale on Craig's List and received an offer but were told they needed to take the "Bank Certified Check" cash it right away and send any extra money back to the sender. Luckily the business owner realized this was a fraud scam and contacted us instead. Be careful of scams like this!

We have had several vehicle burglaries in the area of Uintah, Upper Uintah's and Washington Terrace. It is the season - school is out and the weather is warmer. Please remember to remove anything of value from your vehicles, even change. They are especially taking IPODs from vehicles and GPS units.

West Wilson Lane, a home owner asked for Extra Patrols in the area. They are concerned about vacant buildings in the area and increased gang activity due to teens gathering at these vacant home. If you see any suspicious activity please contact us right away!

We've had businesses with open doors, please make sure you secure your business before you leave. It's an open invitation to anyone.

You may have already read this in the newspaper but We have a nationwide scam that is now in Weber County. The suspect calls a local restaurant and asks to speak with the manager. The man identifies himself as a law enforcement officer. He uses the name of an employee he knows is not working that shift, he tells the manager that the worker has been arrested and the manager must wire the bail money to get him out of jail and back to work. The suspect knows details of the employees and has done some research before he asks the manager to wire the bail money. Once the transfer is made the money is picked up by the suspect at a kiosk, which has been in Colorado. Please be careful and if you have any information please call us at 801-778-6601.

We had a fast food with drive up window burglarized. They pried open the drive through window and the cash drawer taking money.

Alert from the FBI web site:

Telemarketing Fraud

When you send money to people you do not know personally or give personal or financial information to unknown callers, you increase your chances of becoming a victim of telemarketing fraud.

Warning signs -- what a caller may tell you:

- "You must act 'now' or the offer won't be good."
- "You've won a 'free' gift, vacation, or prize." But you have to pay for "postage and handling" or other charges.
- "You must send money, give a credit card or bank account number, or have a check picked up by courier." You may hear this before you have had a chance to consider the offer carefully.
- "You don't need to check out the company with anyone." The callers say you do not need to speak to anyone including your family, lawyer, accountant, local Better Business Bureau, or consumer protection agency.
- "You don't need any written information about their company or their references."
- "You can't afford to miss this 'high-profit, no-risk' offer."

If you hear these--or similar--"lines" from a telephone salesperson, just say "no thank you," and hang up the phone.

Some Tips to Avoid Telemarketing Fraud:

It's very difficult to get your money back if you've been cheated over the phone. Before you buy anything by telephone, remember:

- Don't buy from an unfamiliar company. Legitimate businesses understand that you want more information about their company and are happy to comply.
- Always ask for and wait until you receive written material about any offer or charity. If you get brochures about costly investments, ask someone whose financial advice you trust to review them. But, unfortunately, beware -- not everything written down is true.
- Always check out unfamiliar companies with your local consumer protection agency, Better Business Bureau, state Attorney General, the National Fraud Information Center, or other watchdog groups. Unfortunately, not all bad businesses can be identified through these organizations.
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- Obtain a salesperson's name, business identity, telephone number, street address, mailing address, and business license number before you transact business. Some con artists give out false names, telephone numbers, addresses, and business license numbers. Verify the accuracy of these items.
- Before you give money to a charity or make an investment, find out what percentage of the money is paid in Children's commissions and what percentage actually goes to the charity or investment.
- Before you send money, ask yourself a simple question. "What guarantee do I really have that this solicitor will use my money in the manner we agreed upon?"
- You must not be asked to pay in advance for services. Pay services only after they are delivered.
- Some con artists will send a messenger to your home to pick up money, claiming it is part of their service to you. In reality, they are taking your money without leaving any trace of who they are or where they can be reached.
- Always take your time making a decision. Legitimate companies won't pressure you to make a snap decision.
- Don't pay for a "free prize." If a caller tells you the payment is for taxes, he or she is violating federal law.
- Before you receive your next sales pitch, decide what your limits are -- the kinds of financial information you will and won't give out on the telephone.
- It's never rude to wait and think about an offer. Be sure to talk over big investments offered by telephone salespeople with a trusted friend, family member, or financial advisor.
- Never respond to an offer you don't understand thoroughly.
- Never send money or give out personal information such as credit card numbers and expiration dates, bank account numbers, dates of birth, or social security numbers to unfamiliar companies or unknown persons.
- Your personal information is often brokered to telemarketers through third parties.
- If you have information about a fraud report it to state, local, or federal law enforcement agencies.

We hope you found this bulletin informative!

Sheriff Brad W. Slater