

JUNE 2016



Town of Palm Beach Police Department

345 S. County Road • Palm Beach • Florida • 33480 • 561-838-5454

CRIME PREVENTION TIPS

The Palm Beach Police Department reminds residents - don't let the slower pace of the summer allow you to be distracted with your personal or business safety!

Distraction Thefts

Theft by distraction is a crime of opportunity and everyone is a potential victim!

The Police Department reminds residents and their household staff to be very cautious about strangers who come to the house, and not to allow themselves to be distracted. In these theft cases, someone will approach the resident at their home or business under the pretense of doing some work or providing some service. They may even ask to come into your home claiming a sewer break or other emergency issue with your home. While the resident is distracted by the original person, another individual will enter to look for and steal objects of value. Depending on the circumstances, the victim may not immediately detect the loss of the stolen items. Criminals of this nature travel from town to town in pairs or groups and are long gone when the victim realizes a theft has occurred.

Legitimate businesses will have identification and will not solicit your business door-to-door. If there is any doubt as to the legitimacy of someone coming to your home, residents are encouraged to call the Palm Beach Police Department 838-5454. Officers will assist in identifying individuals and determining the true nature of their business with the resident.

REMEMBER - If you become suspicious about any individuals, vehicles or activities call the Palm Beach Police Department right away by dialing **561-838-5454** or **9-1-1**. Always trust your instincts and call police as soon as your suspicions are aroused.

"If you see something, say something"

For more information on scams go to the Federal Trade Commission Website at <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/scam-alerts>

"Dedicated to Excellence in Law Enforcement"
www.palmbeachpolice.com



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LOCK YOUR VEHICLES

An unlocked car is an open invitation to a thief. Secure your vehicle at all times - even when it is parked in your own driveway or condominium parking lot. If you have a car alarm - use it. Never leave handbags, gifts, briefcases, tablets, cell phones, wallets, cash, or any other valuables in plain view.

SCAMMERS POSE AS IRS AGENTS

Scammers posing as IRS officials call or email saying that you owe taxes and better pay up. They threaten to arrest or deport, revoke a license, or even shut down a business. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) generally first contacts people by mail about unpaid taxes. The IRS will never ask for payment using a prepaid debit card, a money order or wire a transfer. The IRS also will not ask for a credit card number over the phone. If you owe — or think you owe — federal taxes, call the IRS at 800-829-1040 or go to irs.gov.