

New Castle County Division of Police



*Colonel E. M. Setting
Chief of Police*

NEWS RELEASE

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**Distraction Burglaries,
Suspects Sought**

The New Castle County Police, Criminal Investigations Unit, are currently searching for suspects involved in two distraction type burglaries that occurred in the communities of Sunrise Court and Fairthorne.

(Newark, Del.-19713) On Tuesday (9/9) at approximately 12:20 p.m., New Castle County Police responded to the unit block of Sunrise Circle (Sunrise Court) in Newark for a burglary report. Officers learned the 92-year-old victim and her husband were in their yard working when an unknown man pulled into their driveway. The man exited and approached the pair stating he was sent to cut the trees that were growing onto their property. The suspect distracted the pair by asking them to wait and speak to a tree-trimmer. After several minutes of waiting, the victim decided to enter her home at which time the suspect fled in a white SUV. The victim entered her home and discovered jewelry and an undisclosed amount of money missing.

Later that same day, at approximately 2:00 p.m. police responded to the 100 block of Ashley Court (Fairthorne) in Wilmington for a similar burglary. Officers learned the 74-year-old victim was inside her residence when an unknown man rang the doorbell. The victim stated the suspect contacted her because he stated he was cutting trees on the

property behind her residence and indicated the branches would fall onto her property. The suspect distracted the victim by asking her to respond to her rear yard. After spending approximately 10-15 minutes outside, the victim decided to reenter her home and observed the bedroom door open and the garage door closing. The victim immediately realized she had been the victim of a burglary.

In both cases, the suspect distracted the victims long enough to have an unidentified suspect (younger in age) enter the home to remove thousands of dollars' worth of jewelry, money and other items.

Police are currently searching for an Asian/Italian man, approximately 50 years of age, 5'8" tall, average build, approximately 160-175 pounds. The suspect was last seen wearing a baseball hat, dark long sleeve shirt with an emblem over the pocket and dark pants. The suspect fled in a white newer model SUV.

Police are asking that if you have any information related to this incident to please call the New Castle County Police Department at (302) 395-8110. Citizens can also visit our website to submit tips at www.nccpd.com.

Tipsters may also call Crime Stoppers at (800) TIP-3333 or visit us on Facebook at "New Castle County Police Department." Citizens who currently have the smartphone application are encouraged to use the "submit tip" tab to submit tips. Select a topic by using the "drop down" menu and complete the tip by "clicking" submit. The New Castle County Police Smartphone Application is free to download and available for all iPhone and Android smartphones.