

Inspection scam in South Milwaukee



On 2/1/2011, the SMPD took a report of a theft from resident. The victim stated that 2 men showed up at his door to “inspect” the electric meter in his apartment. One of the subjects initially stayed outside. After checking all the light switches in the apartment, the main actor stated that he would pay him \$50 for the inspection. The subject then asked the victim if he could cash a \$100 bill. The victim then went to his bedroom and obtained some envelopes of money to cash the \$100, but the subject stated that he would go across the street to the George Webb’s and cash the bill. The victim left the money box out on a dresser. The subject then left shortly after at which time the victim discovered he was missing a large quantity of money which was contained in the envelopes. No identification cards were displayed and no company name was mentioned.

It is important to remember to ask for, and inspect credentials before allowing any person into your residence. Utility workers, from nearly every company in the United States, are required to carry, photo identification. Employees are also required to allow you to see that identification, if requested. If you feel something is not right, ask the employee to wait outside while you call the utility (or any other business) to verify work is being done in your area. DO NOT use a phone number the employee provides as this could be part of their scam. DO NOT allow strangers free access to your home, always accompany them while they do an inspection.

This incident involved the electric company, but scammers will use a variety of ways to get into your house. The method is generally the same: one scammer will distract you with the “inspection” while the other steals your valuables.

You can also call the South Milwaukee Police Department if you believe that a scam may be taking place.

Please contact Officer Michael Hill at 414-768-8060 or mhill@ci.south-milwaukee.wi.us if you have any questions or concerns.

