



# GILBERTS POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Louis Rossi  
Chief of Police

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## COMMUNITY POLICING ALERT DUNHILL ESTATES

### **“RUSE” Burglary**

“Ruse” burglaries are crimes in which the offender uses a “ruse” to distract their victim in order to commit a burglary. Victims are physically present at the home when the burglary is taking place. Ruse burglars target seniors and people living alone. The offenders generally travel in groups or pairs, allowing one offender to distract the homeowner while the other offender/s enters the home to search for and steal cash, jewelry and other items. The offenders will use many story lines including:

- **Repairing unilock pavers**
- **Blacktop, seal-coating, or driveway repair**
- **Inquiries about the homeowner’s water supply or water pressure**
- **Informing the homeowner there is an electrical problem outside of the home**
- **Offering to repair gutters, fences or tree trimming and landscaping**
- **False statements about problems with the neighbor’s house**
- **Questions about homeowner’s property lines**
- **Inquiries about homes for sale in the neighborhood**

**DO NOT ALLOW ANYONE IN YOUR HOME** unless you know them personally or it is a scheduled appointment. If you live near a senior citizen, warn them. If a solicitor comes to your residence, take notice of the vehicle they are driving (make, model, color, type) and their attire and physical characteristics.

If you choose to speak with a solicitor or utility worker, never leave your front door unlocked or unattended. A legitimate utility or government worker will never object if you ask for ID that you can verify with the utility company or local government agency if the individual was sent to your residence.

If you see any suspicious vehicles and/or subjects approaching elderly neighbors or residents who live alone, immediately contact the Gilberts Police Department Dispatch Center at 630-232-8400 to report these incidents, or call 911 if the incident is in progress.

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