



HERCULES POLICE DEPARTMENT
PRESS RELEASE

TYPE OF INCIDENT		CASE NUMBER	
December Residential Burglaries			
DATE AND TIME OF INCIDENT	LOCATION OF INCIDENT		
December 1-21, 2015	Various Residential Area of Hercules		
VICTIM	AGE	CITY	
RESPONSIBLE	AGE	CITY	
ARRESTED?	CHARGE	BAIL	
NO			

SUMMARY:

The Hercules Police Department has responded to 14 residential burglaries, and one attempt residential burglary, during the month of December. The locations are in several residential neighborhoods.

Eight of the incidents occurred during the daytime hours. In one of the daytime incidents the resident was at home. The suspects rang the doorbell but the resident did not respond. The suspects went around to the back, broke a rear window, and entered the house. The resident confronted the two African American male adult suspects and they fled. In a second incident a resident heard someone ring his door bell, but he did not respond. He looked out the window and saw a male putting a flyer on his door. A short time later the resident left for work and saw a male loitering near his home. He did not call the police. The suspect(s) broke a window at the rear of the home, but did not make entry.

Seven of the burglaries occurred between 6:00pm and 11:00pm. Three of the residents were are home at the time of the incidents. In one incidents the victim saw a Caucasian male adult get out of a car and try to open the victim's garage door. The suspect was not successful and fled the scene. In a second case the suspect broke a window in the garage door. The suspect reached in and unlocked the door but was not able to make entry due to items blocking the door. The resident was advised of an alarm activation and stayed in his room until the police arrived and cleared the scene. In the third incident the resident saw two males, in his backyard, trying to break into his garage. The resident fled out the front door and drove out of the area. The suspects had unscrewed the lights in the backyard, broke a rear window and entered the house.

The underlying factor, in all of these cases, is the houses appeared to be unoccupied. In almost all of the cases, occurring at night, there were no cars in the driveways and no lights visible inside the houses. Several homes had alarms, which were activated. In at least one incident it appears the suspects fled when the alarm went off.

At this time it is unknown if any of these cases are related. The cases occurred all over the city and the descriptions of the suspects are varied. Investigators continue to follow all leads on these cases.

Most residential burglaries are crimes of opportunity. The most common method of operation is for the suspect to ring a door bell, or knock on the door. If there is no answer the suspect goes around to the side or back of the house and breaks a window or door, and makes entry.

The best crime prevention method is to try to make your residence appeared occupied. If you are at home, and someone rings your doorbell, do not open the door. However, you should respond by saying "who is it", etc. If you are suspicious, or uncomfortable, call the police. If you are not at home leave a radio or TV on so noise can be heard. If possible leave a car in the drive way. Try to have someone take in your trash cans, so they are not sitting on the street all day announcing you are not at home. If you are going to be gone in the evening leave a light or two on, preferably on timers, and leave a radio or TV running.

Always remember that the eyes and ears of the community are one of the best tools of the police department. If you are suspicious of anyone, or anything, going on in your neighborhood do not hesitate to call the police. We want to check out any suspicious activity and keep our community safe.

<p>PREPARED BY Connie Van Putten, Reserve Detective and PIO Desk: 510-799-8268 Cell 520-221-1052</p>	<p>DATE 12-22-2015</p>
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