

FPD CRIME ALERT



TRAVELERS PERPETRATING SCAMS

Every year during the springtime Franklin residents fall victim to home repair scams perpetrated by "traveling" groups of criminals.

Typically the elderly are victimized and the scam usually involves driveways seal coating, gutter and roof repair, and tree planting.

Usually 2-3 men come to the victim's home in a pickup truck offering to seal coat the driveway at a discount because they have "extra material" left over from a job just completed nearby. Thinking they are getting a "deal" (sounding too good to be true) the victim pays the price asked and the job is done. It looks good until it rains and then the seal coating washes away and the victim is out the money spent. A variation involves the "workers" coming to the house during the job to ask for a bucket of warm water to use in the seal coating process. Once inside one of the perpetrators keeps the victim occupied while the other rummages through bedroom drawers and jewelry boxes to steal cash (because seniors frequently keep cash at home).

Descriptions of the suspects usually provided are males, late 20's to 40's, dark hair, Hispanic or Mediterranean complexion, sometimes speaking broken English. Driving pickup trucks or SUV's.

Sometimes the perpetrators offer to sell lightning rods, sometimes they offer to repair shingles and gutters, sometimes they offer to sell and plant trees.

Be on the lookout and if this scam is offered to you don't let the perpetrators in your house and call the police immediately. Remember too, if the deal sounds too good to be true, it probably IS!

DON'T BE A VICTIM OF CRIME

For more information about how to avoid being victimized contact any of the Franklin Police Dept. Crime Prevention Unit Officers by phone at 414-425-2522, or by email through our website: <http://franklinpdcrimeprevention.info>