



# HALL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

## CRIME PREVENTION UNIT



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## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH ALERT

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**DATE:** June 17, 2010  
**TO:** Neighborhood Watch Liaisons  
**FROM:** Deputy Stephen Wilbanks  
**SUBJECT:** BURGLARY TACTICS  
**DISTRIBUTION:** All Neighborhood Watch members

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On 04-20-09, after a traffic stop in East Hall by Sheriff's Deputies, (6) individuals were arrested on charges related to multiple burglaries.

All of the subjects were young, Hispanic females; all but one were juveniles and were absent from school.

A large amount of property was recovered as a result of the arrests. The investigation is on-going and more arrests may be pending.

**\*\*\*\*\*The important aspect of this investigation to note is the tactics that the suspects used. During the course of being interviewed, they stated that their method was to travel at random and select houses where it appeared that no one was home. After pulling into the driveway, one suspect would go to the front door and knock for an extended period of time to ensure that anyone inside had ample opportunity to answer. If they did get someone to the door, the suspect would simply ask if someone was home (a pre-planned name that they made up), apologize for the mix-up and leave. If they received no reply at the door, other suspects exited the vehicle and went around to the back of the residence to gain entry while the first individual remained at the front door, still knocking. Once entry was gained from the rear, the person at the front door was let in, and two more remained in the vehicle to serve as look-outs. The crew then took ample time removing high-priced electronics, jewelry, video game systems, etc.**

This tactic is not new to the burglary business, but many people might dismiss a young, school-aged female coming to their door as a legitimate case of a mistaken address.

The lessons learned: utilize methods to make it hard to determine if your home is occupied, and don't take anything for granted. Anyone can be a suspect; even a sweet, innocent-looking school girl. Get a good description and call law enforcement to have them checked out.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact:

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