



HALL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

CRIME PREVENTION UNIT



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH ALERT

DATE: April 22, 2009
TO: Neighborhood Watch Liaisons
FROM: Deputy Stephen Wilbanks
SUBJECT: BURGLARIES
DISTRIBUTION: All Neighborhood Watch members

On 04-21-09, after a brief manhunt in South Hall by Sheriff's Deputies, (2) individuals were arrested on charges related to multiple burglaries.

A stolen vehicle and stolen property were recovered as a result of the arrests. The investigation is on-going and more property may be recovered, and the suspects may be linked to burglaries in other counties.

*******Please note that these arrests were the direct result of a citizen calling in suspicious activity, which turned out to be a theft in progress from a residence. The investigation revealed that these suspects used the same tactics that we have encountered before: the suspects 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, they made entry into the home or a storage building. Items targeted included lawn equipment, tools, electronics, etc. The suspect revealed that most of the items were sold at auctions, which require no proof of ID when taking items in and are not subject to the same restrictions that pawn shops are. Unfortunately, much of that property will probably never be recovered.**

The lessons learned:

- 1) Utilize methods to make it hard to determine if your home is occupied.
- 2) Secure your outdoor storage buildings or tool sheds that contains items of value.
- 3) Record all serial numbers.
- 4) Report all suspicious or unusual activity so law enforcement can check it out.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact:

Deputy Stephen Wilbanks
Hall County Sheriff's Office
Crime Prevention Coordinator
770-533-7674
swilbanks@hallcounty.org