

Fraud Alert!

April 21, 2006

TRAVELERS-SEND THEM PACKING

With spring come April showers, May flowers and the “Travelers”. The showers and the flowers we welcome, but the Travelers should **not** be welcomed at your home. Travelers are traveling con artists who show up on your doorstep uninvited, offering repairs or products at a discount. Let them in and what you typically get for your money is shoddy workmanship and inferior grade materials, usually at an inflated price. Home repair scams are their specialty. They may offer to fix your roof or driveway, paint your home, provide pest control, prune your trees, or a dozen other offers. If allowed inside the home they may distract the homeowner and steal items from the house. Their preferred victim is usually a middle class homeowner over 60 years in age. Law enforcement is on the look out for “Travelers” and you should be too.

To protect yourself:

1. Never do business with someone who shows up uninvited on your doorstep.
2. Never allow someone to pressure you into a hasty decision. If someone tells you there is a serious problem with your home, get a second or third opinion before proceeding with the repairs.
3. Never allow anyone into your home that you do not know and trust. Keep a locked barrier between you and the person on your porch until you verify their identity.
4. Report any suspicious visitors to your home to local law enforcement.
5. Share this information with elderly parents and/or neighbors. Tell them not to hire anyone until they talk it over with you.



Need help?

Call the Fraud Assistance Line

720-874.8547