

DECEMBER 28, 2009 SAFETY ALERT

****WIRE THIEVES CAUSE STREET LIGHT OUTAGES****

Thieves posing as utility workers are stealing wire from local street light equipment in your neighborhood. The latest incident in the Franklin Hills area resulted in street lights being out for days. Often, these imposters dress in coveralls, reflective vests and hardhats and appear as if they are performing authorized work on your local street lights, junction boxes and related electrical equipment. Police and utility officials believe this is a well organized operation throughout Los Angeles and the surrounding cities. Wire from utility equipment has gone up in value on the black market and is an easy target for thieves looking to make a quick buck. Utility workers are forced to undertake extensive repairs and sometimes must replace equipment due to the severity of the damage.

WHAT TO WATCH OUT FOR:

1. SUSPECT VEHICLES. Suspects have been seen driving a red pick-up, red van, and a green truck and sometimes display FAKE CITY SEALS.
2. CITY VEHICLES. Are usually yellow city owned vehicles with city seals or white rented vehicles. When in doubt, call police.
3. LIVE CURRENT. Stay away from electrical equipment that appears to be damaged or tampered with to avoid serious injury.

WHAT TO DO:

1. Call police 911 without hesitation if suspicious of workers in your area. Report street light outages to 311.
2. Watch this [news story](#) passed along by the Bureau of Street Lighting that shows one of the suspect vehicles.
3. Contact GGPNC Public safety at dsandman@GGPNC.org to organize a NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH.

Have a Happy and Safe New Year.

Dan Sandman
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CERT STARTS JANUARY 13, 2010!