



SAN DIEGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

Northwestern Division

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Residential Burglary Series

A series of high-end residential burglaries have occurred in the Del Mar, Carmel Valley, Torrey Highlands, Del Mar Mesa, Black Mountain Ranch and North City areas. Burglaries have also occurred in the San Diego County Sheriff Department jurisdiction of 4S Ranch, Rancho Santa Fe and north Poway communities. These burglaries share many similarities that are unique to a specific group of organized burglary suspects.

As a result of our investigations, the San Diego Police Department has identified consistencies, behaviors and common characteristics. We want to share what we have learned with the hope of helping to prevent future victims.

Common practices of Suspects:

- These suspects are highly organized, skilled and appear to have collective training. They operate in groups, often teams of four, with three suspects doing the burglary and the fourth as a "getaway driver."
- The burglaries generally take place within the first few hours after nightfall.
- All suspects wear long pants, typically long sleeve hooded sweatshirts, masks and gloves.
- They target homes that abut a greenbelt, golf course or hiking trail and have been seen walking along the back of homes looking for one that appears to be unoccupied (no interior lights or residents seen).
- Once in the backyard of a targeted home, the suspects further attempt to verify no one is home. Numerous videos have captured the suspects leaving a yard if they observe someone home.
- Knowing most home alarms are only active on the first floor, the suspects prefer to make entry via a second-floor balcony. They utilize patio furniture, ladders and even scale walls to gain access to the second story. Single story homes have also been targeted.
- They often break a glass door to gain entry since many homes are not equipped with glass break sensors on doors. If you have an existing alarm, we encourage you to consider adding glass break sensors for further "target hardening."
- They target bedrooms and closet areas, looking for high-end jewelry, handbags, cash and watches. They have also targeted safes and office areas looking for small valuables and cash.