



****MEDIA RELEASE****

BIG LAKE POLICE DEPARTMENT



790 Minnesota Avenue, Big Lake MN, 55309

ICR: Multiple

Date: 06/6/2019

Recent Burglary Spree

The entire west end of the metropolitan area has been struck by a very sophisticated ring of burglary suspects. These suspects will locate vehicles which are unlocked with garage door openers in them. They steal the garage door opener, then use it to gain access to the garage and residence. The suspects often steal a vehicle(s) from the garage to continue their crime spree. They also enter occupied residences very quickly, taking items while residents are generally asleep. This group will target a community, striking many home undetected. Because the suspects commit their crimes in vehicles not yet reported stolen, they have been incredibly difficult to catch in the act.

On June 4, starting at 2:00 am, Big Lake Police Officers were dispatched to several reports of thefts and burglaries in progress, below is an overview of what took place in Big Lake;

- Van Tassle Circle: A garage door opener was taken from an unlocked vehicle, suspects used the opener to gain access to the garage and residence. Suspect took items from within the home while the family was asleep.
- Brom Lane: A garage door opener was taken from an unlocked vehicle, suspects used the opener to gain access to the garage, the resident heard the door open and the suspects fled the scene.
- Harrison Dr: Resident awoke to hear a door close in the residence, woke up to find their garage door opener missing from a vehicle.
- Lake Street North: Work up to garage door opening, noticed light on in a truck and the garage door partially open, only missing item was a garage door opener.

Investigator Rich Berg has been working with multiple agencies involved in this very large-scale investigation. By tracking a stolen credit card from Big Lake, he has been able to identify at least one of the suspects in Minneapolis. In the past couple of days, this group has struck Big Lake, Monticello, Buffalo, and Plymouth. This is an ongoing investigation, we look forward to announcing arrests soon. We were fortunate that this group was scared off by an alert homeowner, limiting the number of crimes committed here.

We ask our residents to be diligent about locking vehicles, locking all entrances to your home, and removing garage door openers and valuables from vehicles left outside. Please report suspicious behavior in progress by calling 911. If you have any information, please contact Investigator Rich Berg at 763-251-2987, or at rberg@biglakepolice.com.