



VALLEJO POLICE DEPARTMENT

Press Release

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www.vallejopd.com

Hot Prowl Burglary Arrest

Case# 08-16322

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In the last several months the Vallejo Police Department has investigated numerous reports of residential burglary. Most cases occurred during the day and involve suspects forcing entry into residences and stealing valuables while the residents were gone. A number of arrests have been made as a result of the investigations.

More recently, there has been an increase in what is commonly referred to as a "cat burglar" or "hot prowler" burglary. In these cases, the suspect enters a home while the residents are there and typically occur late night and early morning. At times, the victim(s) have awoken and when confronting the intruder, were attacked and suffered injury.

On October 8, 2008 at approximately 3:30 a.m., a citizen living in a quiet East Vallejo neighborhood called 911 to report an intruder entering their neighbor's home. When police arrived the suspect fled but captured minutes later.

Johnny Harris (age 43 of Vallejo) was arrested and in possession of stolen items from the home where a husband, wife, and 2 children (aged 6 & 8) lived. During the case follow-up, it was learned that Harris had burglarized the same home on two prior occasions the week prior. Harris stole only cash from within the bedrooms where the victims slept. He left no evidence of his entry and although the money was missing, the residents did not report the crime.

Harris has prior "Cat Burglary" convictions with his "MO" being through unlocked doors or windows. He has generally stolen cash and has been known to remain inside homes for extended periods of time. In the early 1990's, Harris was suspected of a series of burglaries (one being on a Christmas Eve in which all gifts were stolen and the children waking the next morning to find their holiday dreams ruined). Although not successfully convicted for all of the crimes he may have committed, Harris was arrested one night as he fled another "Cat Burglary" towards his vehicle which was recently stolen.

Harris is deemed to be a career criminal and will be prosecuted under the 3 strikes law by the Solano County District Attorney's Office.

With the Holiday Season nearing, the Vallejo Police Department would like to remind all citizens to take proper safety precautions when shopping or when leaving your home. Even when preparing for sleep, please be sure to secure and lock all of the doors and windows and report any suspicious activity by calling "911".

Anonymous information can also be given through the Vallejo Crime Stoppers Tip line at (707)644-STOP

The Vallejo Crime Stoppers™ tip line (644-STOP) is a anonymous tip line that offers cash rewards for phone tips that solve violent and/or serious crimes committed in the greater Vallejo area.