



PRESS RELEASE

Pursuant to CA Gov't. Code Sect. 6254(f)
San Jose Police Department
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MEDIA ADVISORY

Copper Wire Theft

The San Jose Police Department's Financial Crimes Unit is investigating a series of copper wire thefts from City street lighting circuits over the last two months. Several cases involving the daytime and late night theft of copper wire from street lights around the City is costing taxpayers tens of thousands of dollars to replace the stolen wire and reconnect the street lighting circuits. Many street lights will remain inoperative due the removal of the wiring until crews are able to replace it.

Residents are reminded to immediately report any suspicious activity occurring around any street light poles or involving the apparent installation or removal of wires in the street or sidewalk vicinity. Legitimate City of San Jose employees will be wearing City of San Jose uniform shirts or safety vests, display identification cards, and have clearly marked City of San Jose vehicles when working around any street light poles or utility boxes.

Tampering with a City utility pole is a crime and the theft of the wiring is a felony crime. Anyone knowingly receiving or reselling stolen City property is guilty of a felony crime. Anyone that observes in-progress suspicious activity around a street light utility box or light pole should call 9-1-1, provide a description of the person(s) and vehicle, and the location of the utility box or pole.

Anyone with information on this case is urged to call the San Jose Police Department's Financial Crimes Unit at (408) 277-4521. Persons wishing to remain anonymous may call Crime Stoppers at 408-947-STOP.

BY: Sgt. Nick Muyo #2086
DATE: 11-9-07 TIME: 2:00PM

AUTHORIZED BY: Lt. K. Tanaka
DATE: 11-9-07 TIME: 2:00PM

PRESS OFFICER BRIEFED BY UNIT COMMANDER (CIRCLE) **YES NO**