



**PALM BEACH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
DISTRICT 4, DELRAY  
BOLO**



Prepared: 5/21/09

**UPDATE**

**ELDERLY DISTRACTION THEFTS—ACID SPILL SCAM**

**They appear to be back in South Florida. In the past week, 5/18 -5/21/09, three new incidents have been reported in Florida, including one in South Palm Beach County.**

**How it works:**

- Ø The target is usually an elderly female.
- Ø Items stolen are usually the rings and/or bracelets worn by the target.
- Ø Unknown subject cons way into home, stating there's a problem with the water quality or water pressure, he's testing the system, a neighbor has a leak, or they are spraying for insects. Sometimes two individuals will gain entry.
- Ø They will then "accidentally" spill a liquid on the target's hands, she is told it is acid, & that she should remove her jewelry and wash her hands immediately, or she may be told to go flush all the toilets multiple times, or run the water, sometimes they will ask for a glass of milk to soak the jewelry.
- Ø While the victim is continually told to keep washing her hands, or running the water, the thieves pocket the jewelry & flee the scene.

**Note: Targets may be followed home from stores like WalMart, Publix, or a Flea Market**

**Please provide any Information on these type of incidents to the  
PBSO District 4 Detective Bureau—561-274-1084**

**INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO  
THE STRATEGIC INTELLIGENCE SECTION AT PBSO HQ OR TELEPHONE 561-688-3833  
[intel@pbsso.org](mailto:intel@pbsso.org)**