



# MIDDLETOWN

## BOROUGH POLICE DEPARTMENT

---

### PRESS RELEASE

#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Chris A. Courogen

Communications Director/PIO

(cel) 717.903.5534

e-mail: [ccourogen@middletownborough.com](mailto:ccourogen@middletownborough.com)

## **Police warn of possible burglars posing as utility employees**

Middletown Borough Police are asking Borough residents to be on the alert following a report of what is believed to have been an attempted burglary by a man posing as a “water department” employee.

Police said a man wearing a uniform approached an elderly woman in the first block of Beachwood Drive around 3 p.m. Tuesday and identified himself as an employee of the “water department.” The man, described only as “Hispanic,” told the woman a water pipe was broken in the area and that her water supply might be poisoned.

After the woman granted him permission to come into the home to check her water, the man requested she stay with him while he went to the kitchen and bathroom turning on all the faucets “check the water.” The entire time the man made every effort to keep the woman away from the front of the home while speaking to another party by walkie-talkie. The man repeatedly told the other party the water might be poisoned in a manner that made certain the woman overheard that part of the conversation.

The man was in the home for approximately 10 minutes, then turned off all the faucets and left the home without further explanation.

Police believe this was an attempted burglary, with the walkie-talkie was used to communicate to a second person that it was safe to enter the home. The water was likely turned on to mask the noise of the second person entering the home.

Residents are advised Middletown no longer has a “water department” due to the lease of the Borough’s water-sewer system to United Water. All personnel from United Water carry identification badges with the company logo. United advises its customers to always ask to see identification before allowing anyone to enter your home. If you have any concerns, ask the representative to wait and call 888-844-0352 to confirm that United has sent an employee to your home.

Anyone with information regarding this incident, or who sees or experiences suspicious activity of this nature, is asked to call the Police Department at 717-558-6900.