

Westminster Police Department

# PRESS RELEASE

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## **FUMIGATION TENT BURGLARIES ADVISORY**

The City of Westminster has seen a slight increase of residential fumigation tent burglaries in 2012. Six incidents have been reported to the Westminster Police Department between May and July 2012.

During these incidents, suspects target tented residences that are undergoing fumigation. The suspects gain access to the house by cutting or opening the tent. The suspects then enter the residence via a door or window and take valuables before fleeing. It would appear that the suspects have some working knowledge of the fumigation process, as the window of safe entry into a fumigated house is minimal.

The Westminster Police Department asks citizens to take steps in preventing burglaries of this type. Home owners who are having their residence tented are advised to notify the police department with the dates of the fumigation, so patrol checks can be conducted when possible. Citizens may contact police dispatch on a non-emergency line by calling 714-548-3212. This line is for patrol requests only. They are not able to answer questions. There is also a form that is available on the City of Westminster website that can be filled out and brought to the front desk of the police department or faxed to 714-894-1077. Further, it is advised that neighbors be notified to increase vigilance.

The Westminster Police Department asks citizens to immediately report such incidents. Anonymous tips can also be reported to Orange County Crime Stoppers at 1-855-TIP-OCCS; or visit their website at <http://www.occrimestoppers.org/>