

Tri-County Crime Stoppers

Week of January 10, 2005

St. Cloud Police: Robbery

On 01/09/05 at 2359 hours officers were dispatched to Blockbuster Video, at 3356 Division Street West, in reference to an armed robbery that had just occurred. Employees of the business stated that a white male had entered the business displaying a handgun and demanded money.

The male was described as being approximately 5'8", 175 pounds, wearing blue jeans, a gray hooded sweatshirt, black ski mask, approximately 35 years of age, with blue eyes. The suspect fled the area prior to police arrival and is believed to be in possession of approximately \$1,000 in paper money from the business. The St. Cloud Police Department is asking the public to report any additional information they may have concerning this crime.

St. Cloud Police: Vehicle Vandalism and Damage to Property

On 01/09/05 at 0131 hours officers were dispatched to 9 18th Avenue North, the VFW parking lot, for a report of four black males who had just shot out a car window, Investigation revealed that the four suspect males were walking through the parking lot when they fired 50me sort of BB or pellet gun into the window of the vehicle. The two witnesses in the area approached the males and all four males fled on foot, firing the BB gun at the witnesses. The witnesses were not injured or struck by any BBs.

Two of the suspects were located at a nearby house. Investigation for the two additional suspects is ongoing. Several businesses in the area were also discovered to have windows shot out with what appears to be a similar BB. Anyone else with information is being asked to call Crime Stoppers.

Stearns County Sheriff: Business Burglary

During the night of January 6th, a burglary took place at the Pearl Lake Lodge. Forced entry was made and an undisclosed amount of cash was stolen.

FBI

111 Washington Avenue South, Suite 1100-Minneapolis, MN, 55401-<http://minneapolis.fbi.gov>

TSUNAMI DISASTER RELIEF FRAUD ALERT

Washington, D. C. - The FBI today is alerting the public to a variety of scams currently being facilitated online involving the solicitation of additional relief funds for the victims of the recent Tsunami disaster. The FBI, through the Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3), has received reports of web sites being established purportedly to assist with collection and relief efforts. Complaints submitted to the IC3 have identified several schemes that involve both unsolicited in-coming emails (SP AM), as well as reports of responses to posted email addresses, to assist for a fee, in locating loved ones who may have been a victim of the disaster. A fraudulent relief donation website has also been detected containing an imbedded Trojan exploit which can infect the user's computer with a virus if accessed.

The FBI, in conjunction with domestic with international law enforcement and industry partners, take seriously these egregious actions and are resolved to aggressively pursuing those who would attempt to victimize philanthropic individuals.

The IC3 is cautioning citizens against participating in this type of on-line correspondence. Consistent with previous guidance on incidents of Phishing/Spoofing and Identity Theft, when considering on-line options for providing funding to this relief effort consumers should consider the following:

- Do not respond to any unsolicited (SP AM) incoming emails.

- Be skeptical of individuals claiming to be surviving victims or foreign government officials asking for help in placing large sums of money in overseas bank accounts.
- To ensure that contributions to U.S. based non-profit organizations are used for intended purposes, go directly to recognized charities and aid organizations web sites, as opposed to following a link to another site.
- Attempt to verify the legitimacy of non-profit organizations by utilizing various Internet based resources which may assist in confirming the existence of the organization as well as its non-profit status.
- Be leery of e-mails that claim to show pictures of the disaster areas in attached files, as the files may contain viruses. Only open attachments from know senders.

Several variations of this scam are currently in circulation. Anyone who has received an email referencing the above information or anyone who may have been a victim of this or a similar incident should notify the IC3 via the web site, www.ic3.gov .

The Benton County Sheriff: Two Bar Burglaries and One Attempted Bar Burglary.

Dusty's Bar – Burglary was reported on December 21, 2004, which occurred overnight. Suspect(s) gained entry using a prying object on a door. Suspect(s) took numerous packs/cartons of Marlboro and Camel brand cigarettes along with a Sharp brand cash register and \$500.00 cash.

Ronneby Bar and Grill – Attempted burglary was reported on December 31,2004, at 5:07 A.M. Suspect(s) activated back door alarm. When officers arrived the back door was found to have pry marks.

Rum Shack Bar – Burglary was reported on December 31, 2004, which occurred overnight. Suspect(s) gained entry through the front door using a prying object. Suspect(s) took several cartons of cigarettes including the brands Marlboro, Camel, and GPC. Approximately \$90.00 cash was taken from the cash register along with a Rural American Bank bag containing rolls of quarters worth approximately \$400.00, and eight packages of Zig Zag rolling papers