

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**December 10, 2007**

**Bernardsville Police Department**  
**166 Minebrook Road**  
**Bernardsville, N.J. 07924**

**(908) 766-0037**

The Bernardsville Police Department is warning residents to use extra caution in greeting strangers at their doorstep following a recent suspicious incident.

The Police Department continues to investigate a suspicious incident that occurred on Friday, December 7, 2007 at 9:02 PM at a Mt. Harmony Road residence. In this incident two men knocked on the front door of a single family residence and identified themselves as Bernardsville Firemen. They indicated that they needed to speak with the homeowner. One of the men displayed a “fake looking” fireman’s badge to the homeowner. The homeowner refused to open the door and told them they were calling the police. The men then immediately left the area prior to arrival of the Police. The Bernardsville Fire Chief has told Police no one was at the residence at the time the incident occurred.

The homeowner described the two men as white males between the ages of 17 and 25 years old. The first was heavy set with reddish blond hair and was wearing a dark jacket. The second was tall and thin with brown hair wearing a T-shirt with a rock and roll band symbol on it as well as a dark jacket.

While the intentions of the actors are unknown at this time, Police believe the incident is suspicious in nature. Police are urging residents to use extra caution in confronting strangers at their doorsteps. The following precautions are recommended.

1. Never answer your door alone when possible. Always try to have another adult family member escort you to the door.
2. Keep your exterior doors locked at all times.
3. Ensure your front doorstep is well lighted to help you identify who is calling after dark.
4. Never open your door to a stranger until their identity and intentions are verified.
5. Routinely ask that deliveries be left on the doorstep and retrieve them after the delivery person has left.

6. When deliveries require signatures and you do not know the delivery person, ask to see identification from the driver and verify the delivery vehicle is familiar to you. If still in doubt, call the delivery company to confirm the delivery.
7. Be alert to your surroundings and never hesitate to immediately contact police if you feel the incident is suspicious. Tell the Police as much descriptive information as possible about the people and vehicles involved.

Police are asking anyone with information or knowledge of similar incidents to contact the Detective Bureau at (908) 766- 0037.