

CRIME ALERT!
www.nyjcan.com

ROBBERY OF JEWELER AFTER CRAFTS SHOW

Saturday, June 14, 2014; 10:16 PM

A pair of jewelry dealers were exhibiting at the American Crafts Festival at Lincoln Center in Manhattan on Saturday. After the show, as they arrived back at their hotel in Carlstadt, NJ, they were approached by 4 men in the parking lot as they exited their vehicle. As the male victim exited his car with the jewelry in a backpack on his shoulder, the men assaulted him, threw him to the ground and took the backpack. The male victim sustained minor injuries from the assault, police said. The value of the goods taken was reported in the press at \$651,000 retail.

The good news here is that two days later the police in South Carolina stopped a vehicle with 3 men inside and found the backpack with the jewelry belonging to this victim. The goods were confiscated but, unfortunately, the suspects had to be released because they had not yet been connected to the specific crime. The police are still developing the case and expect to issue arrest warrants.

Suspect Descriptions

The suspects, described as young adult men, possibly white or Hispanic, standing 5-feet 8-inches to 6-feet tall, ran into an awaiting vehicle and fled the area. The men all wore dark clothing and possibly hooded sweatshirts or ski masks. The vehicle was a white sedan, possibly a Honda.

Crime Prevention

Craft fairs are dangerous for jewelers. This incident and others from the past clearly demonstrate that the theft and robbery gangs that target traveling jewelry salespersons are finding easy targets at the craft fairs. Some prevention tips to consider when traveling with goods:

- Always be alert to your surroundings.
- Develop and implement evasive driving techniques to determine if you are being followed. If targeted, there will likely be more than one vehicle following you.
There is usually a period of time between the moment when the suspects have identified their target and when the robbery actually occurs. This is the critical time for the jeweler to be assessing his or her surroundings and take preventative measures.
- If you suspect you are being followed:
 - Call the police and advise them of your situation. You can tell them you are carrying valuable merchandise and you feel you are about to be the victim of an armed robbery.
 - Drive to a police station or a well-lit place with people.
- Never take the goods home.
- Always be discreet about your travel plans and maintain a high level of secrecy.
- Always inspect your vehicle for possible tampering before you get in. Look for tire puncture or cut radiator hose, etc.
- Never resist!
- Always ship the goods whenever possible, especially to and from trade shows and trunk shows.

There is a great deal of crime prevention information available to the industry. One valuable resource is Jewelers' Security Alliance: www.jewelerssecurity.org.

If you would like more information, please feel free to contact me or reply to this email.

To Report an incident for distribution to the network members, contact Paul Silverman at psilverman@mjmglobal.com.

Previous Crime Alerts are available here: http://www.nyjcan.com/Crime_Alert_Archive.html.

This alert is being distributed as a free service to members of the jewelry industry who have provided their email addresses and requested to receive security alerts. If you wish to be removed from this distribution list, please reply to this email with REMOVE in the subject.

If you have any questions about the information contained in this alert or about the New York Jewelers Crime Alert Network, please contact Paul Silverman at psilverman@mjmglobal.com, or at 201-720-7700.