

Stanislaus County
**SHERIFF'S
DEPARTMENT**

Sheriff Adam Christianson
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MEDIA RELATIONS



**NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DATE: 9/15/2010

AUTOMOTIVE SCAM TARGETS SENIORS

Riverbank, CA – Investigators believe senior citizens in the Riverbank area are being targeted in scam. Several reports over the last several days have detailed a Caucasian male, believed to be in his 50's or 60's, waving down elderly drivers. Once the suspect has the driver stopped he warns them of sparks coming out of their vehicle. The suspect then reassures the victims that he is a qualified mechanic and even looks under the hood of their vehicle to identify what's causing the problem.

The suspect offers to replace the part for free, only requesting cash so that he can purchase the part from the auto store. Once he receives cash he leaves the area and never returns. In one case the suspect even followed the senior to her daughter's house to receive the cash.

Investigators would like to warn unsuspecting seniors that could be taken advantage of. The suspect in this case is further described as 5'10", 180 lbs, clean-shaven with dark hair. If identified, the suspect could face felony charges of elderly abuse and theft. There have been approximately four reported incidents since September 1, 2010.

Anyone with information about this case is encouraged to contact Riverbank Police Services at (209) 869-7162. Callers can also leave an anonymous tip by calling Crime Stoppers at (209) 521-4636. Tipsters can also e-mail tips at <http://www.modestopolice.com/CrimeStoppers>, or text them to CRIMES (274637) by typing "Tip704", plus the message. Tipsters can be eligible for cash rewards.

For information regarding this press release please contact Deputy Andrew Winter (209) 652-0300 (awinter@stanislaussheriff.com).