



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

A STATE ACCREDITED LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

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Media Release

From: Sergeant Donna Black
Public Information Officer, 352-754-6830

Re: Air Conditioner Thefts on the Rise

Date: May 20, 2010

The Hernando County Sheriff's Office has started to have a rise in reports of air conditioner thefts. The thefts have again been concentrated in the Royal Highlands neighborhood with three reports within the past two weeks. The thieves are not just stealing big units, window air units are also being stolen or parts removed.

The Sheriff's Office will be again utilizing GPS tracking devices placed inside the units and unit parts in an effort to track down stolen units and catch the person (s) responsible for the thefts.

As a recap, earlier this year detectives began placing bright green WARNING stickers on houses that were under foreclosure or vacant letting would be thieves know that the property may be monitored by GPS tracking devices. As warned, at some of the houses detectives installed an undetectable tracking device on the appliances. This innovative investigative method paid off on March 16, 2010 when a subject broke into a vacant home on Sandpiper Ave in Royal Highlands and removed a refrigerator and stove complete with a GPS tracker.

Tis the season when many of our northern visitors have gone back home so there are home that are vacant in our area. These vacant winter homes and foreclosed homes make for easy picking for thieves. The Hernando County Sheriff's Office is asking everyone to be a good neighbor by being vigilant and if you see anyone around a home or a car/ truck at a vacant house please call the Hernando County Sheriff's Office at 745-6830 and let us check it out.

If you have information regarding this crime, please contact the Hernando County Sheriff's Office at 352-754-6830. If you wish to remain anonymous, call the Hernando County Crime Stoppers toll free at 1-866-990-8477(TIPS) or you may email your tip by clicking below.

<http://www.hernadosheriff.org/Tips/>

You may be eligible for a reward up to \$1,000.