



PBA Local 357



# TOWNSHIP OF BERNARDS

## DEPARTMENT OF POLICE

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Dennis J. Mott  
Chief of Police



Somerset County Chiefs  
Of Police Association

August 29, 2008

### **CRIME ALERT:**

#### **SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY/POSSIBLE LURING INCIDENT**

On Friday August 29, 2008 a resident reported a suspicious incident/possible attempted luring to the Bernards Township Police. At 3 PM on August 29, 2008, an eight year old girl was playing in the front yard of her home on Deer Ridge Road in Basking Ridge when a maroon pick-up truck driven and occupied by two white males drove by at least once before stopping and asking the girl if she would come over to the vehicle to look at their sick dog. The girl did observe a dog inside the pickup truck. The girl told the vehicle occupants she would get her dad and walked away. The vehicle was gone by the time the father went to the front yard. The two occupants of the vehicle were described as middle aged white males, both clean shaven. The Bernards Township Police Department is investigating the incident.

In light of this possible incident, I ask all parents to speak with their children about strangers and the danger they present. The young girl in the above incident did exactly what she should have done. If a stranger ever asks a child to approach a vehicle, the child should go get their parent, a trusted adult or family member immediately. Parents should also stress that strangers can try and trick children. Parents should reinforce with their children and teenagers that they never talk to, or go with strangers (walk with them or get in a car). If approached by a stranger, they should get away from that person, and if they feel the need, they should yell "HELP!" as loudly as possible. Strangers are anyone we do not know. All children and teenagers should practice personal safety at all times.

I hope to give some assurance by stating that Bernards Township has not experienced child abduction in 21 years, and the Bernards Township Police, while receiving a few reports of attempted luring/abduction incidents in the last decade, have never been able to prove the incidents occurred. I hope this offers reassurance to all residents, parents and members of our community. Concerned parents who have questions can contact Lt. Elder, Lt. Reese, Lt. Byrnes Lt. Anthony, Captain Bobowicz, or me, at Police Headquarters.

Sincerely,

Dennis J. Mott  
Chief of Police