

Urbandale Police Department Media Release

Effective: 07-02-08

Cancel: 07-03-08

Topic: Series of Related Child Enticement and Sexual Assaults Against Children

The investigation into the recent series of child enticement and sexual assaults against children is ongoing. Due to the seriousness of these incidents and the volume of calls and leads, a task force was established early in this investigation to coordinate resources and law enforcement efforts. The task force is comprised of detectives and representatives from the following agencies: Division of Criminal Investigation; Des Moines Police Department; Urbandale Police Department; Dallas Center Police Department; Adel Police Department; and Panora Police Department.

The Des Moines Police Department has been designated as the facility that the task force will operate out of. Detectives will coordinate daily to evaluate leads and investigative information from the metro area and surrounding communities. As of this date, investigators have received nearly 100 calls with various degrees of information. No arrests have been made at this time.

We are asking that metro residents and commuters remain vigilant as they go about their daily business and activities, especially through this upcoming holiday weekend. Parents are reminded to speak with their children about the risks of talking to strangers, and should openly discuss safety strategies in various what-if scenarios. It is recommended that children be accompanied by a responsible adult or large group when moving about their communities.

Investigators are stressing the value of witnesses obtaining license plate numbers or calling police as soon as they believe that a possible enticement or assault situation is in progress. It is still believed that the primary suspect vehicle description is a clean black newer vehicle, although in at least two incidents the suspect was on foot in or near a park. The repeated suspect description has been: white male, late teens/early 20's, approximately 5'10", slender build, with short dark hair.

Investigators are asking anyone with any specific information about any of the recent incidents or who were in the area of any of the recent incidents to contact Polk County Crime Stoppers at 223-1400. Incidents or suspicious behavior in progress should be reported immediately by calling 911. Media inquiries regarding task force updates and activities should be directed through Sgt. Dave Disney; Public Information Officer for the Urbandale Police Department.

Authority Sgt. Dave Disney
Public Information Officer
Urbandale Police Dept. **515-331-6811**