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Lafayette police chief Eric Christensen alerts residents to a trio of burglaries Christmas week at the east end of Lafayette near Olympic Boulevard and Pleasant Hill Road. The thieves entered homes by prying open rear sliding glass doors and took off with jewelry and small electronics, leaving no fingerprints behind.

In at least one of the incidents, the suspects were in the area for a couple of hours casing and then burglarizing a home. Police are looking for a dark green or black, 2009-2012 Volkswagen Routan.

Christensen offers some specific tips to avoid being the next victim:

Put a wooden dowel in the track of your sliding glass door to prevent it from being forced open.

Set your alarm every time you leave your home.

Report suspicious vehicles and people; trust your instincts! Call police at (925) 284-5010 or, if you don't want to call, you can email the license plate number, and a photo if you take one, to 94549Tip@gmail.com.

Put out a decoy jewelry box. These burglars are looking for the jewelry box and for a quick escape.

A safe that can be carried is no good. If you have a small safe, bolt it to the floor or keep it very well hidden.

Reach the reporter at: info@lamorindaweekly.com

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