

New teen hobby has neighbors firing shots

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By Brad W. Gary of the Tribune

An elaborate late night game in which teens run through back yards and down city streets has drawn the attention of police after a report of gunshots fired at participants.

Dozens of teens have been dividing into teams as part of a physical game of cat and mouse dubbed "Fugitive," that Lewiston police said begins in the Lewiston Orchards on weekend nights and ends when a winner makes his or her way downtown on foot.

But Lewiston police are asking the game come to a halt before someone gets killed or arrested for traipsing through back yards.

The warning comes after the game's danger level escalated Friday night, when a nearby resident fired three to five shots in the area of juveniles on Hillcrest Road.

No one was injured. Lewiston Police Capt. Tom Greene said police believe game players were mistaken for burglars when the shots were fired at about 11:20 p.m.

The shooting was the first problem police had with the game, which Greene said officers have known about for a few weeks. About 20 people with ages ranging from 14-25 are believed to be taking part in "Fugitive," according to police. The game includes runners on foot and other players searching neighborhoods on foot and in cars, according to police.

But Greene said the department has concerns of what might happen should the game continue.

"Our concern is the safety of these kids," Greene said, noting they could be physically assaulted or confronted by a resident who believed they were breaking into a home.

Police are also concerned "Fugitive" could be alarming neighborhoods in the early hours of the morning. Officers are asking the game be stopped or moved to another area.

"It needs to be in more of a rural setting instead of through neighborhoods late at night," Greene said.

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