Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott announced today the investigation into a series of armed robberies spanning June 6, 2009 to August 1, 2009 and two states.

Sheriff Leon Lott stated that armed robbers have laid in wait until closing time and at gunpoint forced managers of seven restaurants to re-enter the businesses -- stealing money from the businesses and personal valuables of the employees. Sheriff Leon Lott stated that the robbers drive up to the location, as the manager is approaching their car to leave, and block the manager in with the suspect vehicle. Sheriff Leon Lott stated that all of the armed robberies occurred at closing time but involved different suspect vehicles - believed to be rental cars. Sheriff Leon Lott stated that it is believed that three suspects, all described as black males, are involved in the string of robberies.

Sheriff Leon Lott added that the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division Forensic Artist has been able to provide a sketch of what the suspects are believed to look like and that one of the robberies was captured on video surveillance (showing one of the suspects inside the business). Both the sketches, suspect vehicles and still photograph are shown below.

Sheriff Leon Lott stated that anyone wishing to earn up to $1000 cash reward for information leading to the identity of those responsible should call, texts or email your anonymous tips to Crimestoppers.
Sheriff Leon Lott added the time line for the robberies and specific vehicle descriptions:

- June 6, 2009   Chuck E Cheese   1775 Burning Tree Drive, Columbia
  + Red Hyundai Elantra

- June 20, 2009  Chuck E Cheese   Augusta, Georgia
  + Dark Green Kia Rio

- June 30, 2009  Chuck E Cheese   Kennesaw, Georgia
  + Dark four door sedan

- July 4, 2009   Applebee's       10102 Two Notch Road, Columbia
  + White Pick-up Truck
  + Extended cab

- July 11, 2009  Texas Roadhouse   Columbiana Drive, Columbia
  + White Chevrolet Malibu

- July 17, 2009  Chili's          Lexington, South Carolina
  + White Pick-up Truck
  + Extended cab

- August 1, 2009 Chili's          Augusta, Georgia
  + Red Four Door vehicle