



County of Santa Cruz

Sheriff-Coroner

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Phil Wowak
Sheriff-Coroner

Sheriff's Media Release

Date/Time of Incident/Event: 01/15/13 at 4:15 p.m.
Location of Incident: The Mountain Store in Boulder Creek
Case Number: 13-00428
Type of Incident: Felony Theft - 110 cartons of cigarettes
Suspect(s): Suspect #1 – black male, 16-18 years old, 5-03, 190 pounds, black hair
Suspect #2 - black male, 16-18 years old, 5-09, 150 pounds, black hair
Suspect #3 - black male, 16-18 years old, 6-01, 160 pounds, black hair
Suspect Vehicle – 2008 Black Hyundai Santa Fe (CA Plate 6DCD574)
Video Available: Yes

Description of Incident:

The Santa Cruz Sheriff's Office is investigating an organized and preplanned theft of cigarettes that occurred on Tuesday at the Mountain Store in Boulder Creek.

On 01/15/13, the owner of the Mountain Store in Boulder Creek purchased 110 cartons of cigarettes in San Jose from a whole sale vendor. It was later determined the store owner was followed by three suspects in a black Hyundai from San Jose to Boulder Creek. Upon arriving to the store, the victim started to unload the cigarettes. The suspects exited their vehicle **and grabbed the remaining cigarettes out of the victim's** vehicle. The suspects got back into their vehicle and drove away towards Bear Creek Road. The vehicle had a license plate of CA - 6DCD574 and is registered to an address in Oakland California. Investigators obtained video footage of the suspects and the theft.

The Sheriff's Office wants to warn local merchants to be careful when transporting large amount of merchandise. Be aware of your surroundings and carry a cell phone. Merchants should also have a plan in case they are a victim of a large scale theft. This appears to be the first operation of this magnitude in Santa Cruz County, but there have been criminally sophisticated thefts in the larger Bay Area.

Press Release Prepared by: Deputy April Skalland

Press Release Approved by: Lt. Craig Wilson

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