TYPE OF INCIDENT: Catalytic Converter Theft Arrest
LOCATION: S. De Anza Boulevard @ Rodrigues Avenue, Cupertino, CA
CASE NUMBER: 20-303-0024C

DETAILS:

On 10/29/2020 at approximately 3:30AM, deputies located a suspicious vehicle backed into a handicap stall in a shopping plaza on S. De Anza Boulevard near Rodrigues Avenue in Cupertino.

Vigilant deputies saw two suspects, later identified as Usvaldo Frias (33) and Domingo Espinoza (41), in the process of cutting the catalytic convertor out of a parked commercial Honda van.

Upon further investigation, deputies found two saws, burglary tools and a floor jack inside of the suspect’s vehicle and located methamphetamine as well as drug paraphernalia on their persons. Both suspects were arrested and booked into the Main Jail on the following charges: grand theft; conspiracy; possession of burglary tools; possession of methamphetamine; possession of drug paraphernalia.

Additionally, there has been a significant increase in the theft of catalytic convertors in the region. Here are some tips to help reduce the risk of having your catalytic convertor stolen:

- Park cars in a garage
- Give consideration to how the car is parked so as to restrict access to the area underneath the vehicle
- Park in a well-lit and highly visible or trafficked area
- Parking in an area covered by surveillance cameras
- Install an aftermarket antitheft device

This is an ongoing investigation. Anyone with information is asked to contact the Santa Clara County Sheriff’s Office at (408) 808-4500. Alternatively, you can contact the Sheriff’s Office Investigative Services anonymous tip line at (408) 808-4431.