



San Diego County SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

PRESS RELEASE INFORMATION SHEET

InformationType: Press Release
Subject of Release: Arrest of burglary and grand theft suspect
Other Information: Arrest of Sergio Loza
Person Providing Information: Don Crist
Email Address of Provider:
Telephone number of Provider: 760-510-5200
Fax number of Provider: 760-510-5201
Date of Release: 11/19/09
Time of Release: 1930 hours

INFORMATION:

Date of Occurrence: 11-18-09, 2200 hours, through 11-19-09, 0500 hours
Time of Occurrence: N/A
Location of Incident: South Pacific Street and Linda Vista Drive

SYNOPSIS:

On Thursday, 11-19-09, Deputy Ken Lawrence investigated a vehicle theft from Hydro-Plant, Incorporated, located at 356 South Pacific Street, San Marcos. While investigating the vehicle theft, the owner of the welding business next door at 366 South Pacific Street, arrived to find his business had been burglarized and power tools had been stolen. Deputy Zdunich arrived to take the burglary report. During the burglary investigation, Deputy Zdunich collected evidence and took photographs of unique shoe prints that probably belonged to the burglar. Deputy Zdunich also obtained a partial list of stolen property from the welding business. While investigating the burglary, Deputy Zdunich was notified of a burglary of paper suits from a business just south of the welding business - 1520 Linda Vista Drive, San Marcos. Deputies determined that the burglaries and vehicle theft occurred sometime between 10 p.m. Wednesday night and 5 a.m. on Thursday morning.

Later that morning, a resident in the 600 block of Tilley Lane, San Marcos, saw a vehicle with the Hydro-Plant name parked on the street. The vehicle looked out of place so the resident called the business to ask about the vehicle. The owner determined that the vehicle was the one stolen from his business overnight. He, in turn, notified the Sheriff's Department that his stolen vehicle was found on Tilley Lane. Deputy Meleen responded to Tilley Lane to recover the vehicle and collect evidence. The vehicle was returned to the business owner.



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Later that day, at about 1219 hours, Deputies Ford and Larson drove to a residence in the 3800 block of La Rosa Drive, San Marcos. They were scheduled to meet there with San Marcos Code Enforcement Officer Paul Williams to discuss code enforcement action on a Varrio San Marcos' (VSM) gang member's house as part of an active Community Oriented Policing and Problem Solving project that Deputies Ford and Larson were working on.

As Deputies Ford and Larson pulled up to the front of the house, they saw Sergio Loza, 33 years (04-14-76), standing in front of the house. Deputies Ford and Larson recognized Loza from prior contacts. Loza was talking to the home owner and was carrying a backpack. They knew Loza had a 4th waiver search as a condition of his probation, and from prior contacts with him, the deputies believed Loza had just completed illegal activity with the home owner. Deputies Ford and Larson exited their patrol vehicle and called Loza by name. Loza turned and walked away from the deputies. Deputy Ford contacted the home owner while Deputy Larson called Loza's name three or four times and walked toward Loza. Loza kept walking east on La Rosa. Deputy Larson ordered Loza to stop, but Loza ran away from Deputy Larson. Deputies Larson and Ford gave chase, following Loza southbound on Rancho Santa Fe, then westbound to a drainage ditch where he tried to hide.

Deputies Larson and Ford caught up with Loza and arrested him for Penal Code Section 148 - Failure to Obey a Peace Officer. Loza's backpack was lying next to him. The backpack had a top opening (like a duffel bag) and was loose. The deputies could see power tools inside the backpack. Deputy Buckley, who had arrived on scene to help with the foot pursuit, mentioned the multiple burglaries that had occurred on Pacific Street and Linda Vista Drive overnight.

Because of Loza's 4th waiver search conditions, deputies were permitted to inspect the property in Loza's backpack more closely. Deputy Larson contacted Deputy Zdunich who then identified the power tools in Loza's backpack as some of those possibly stolen from the burglaries on Pacific Street and Linda Vista Drive. Deputy Zdunich contacted the burglary victim who came to the Sheriff's San Marcos Station and positively identified many of the tools as his.

Deputies also compared the photographs of the shoe prints found at the burglary scene and found that the shoe prints matched the tread of the shoes Loza was wearing. Deputies, assisted by Detective Miller, completed a 4th Waiver search of Loza's residence where they found several more power tools which had been stolen from the burglary at 366 South Pacific Street. The stolen vehicle was recovered approximately a mile southwest of Loza's home, although he has not been charged with vehicle theft. Loza was booked into the Sheriff's Vista Detention Facility on charges of burglary and grand theft. Bail has not yet been set.