



Fresno County Sheriff's Department
Margaret Mims, Sheriff
News Release

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Deputy Chris Curtice – Public Information Officer
Office 559.488.2699 Fax 559.262.4032
E-mail: christian.curtice@fresnosheriff.org

MEDIA ADVISORY: Ag Theft Unit Makes Metal Theft Arrest

Fresno County Sheriff Margaret Mims today announced the arrest of 48 year old Randy Lee Bettencourt on charges of metal theft. The arrest comes after a two month long investigation into a string of metal theft incidents.

Over the past two months, six separate thefts of stainless steel had occurred at Eischen Enterprises, located on S Cedar Ave in Fresno. The owner of the business contacted the Sheriff's Department and started checking for his property at local metal recyclers in the area.

In early April, the owner contacted investigators with the Sheriff's Ag Theft Unit after locating some of his stolen metal at one of the recyclers. Investigators responded and located approximately 440 pounds of stainless steel that had been stolen from Eischen. The estimated value of the metal was approximately \$5000. Upon checking the recycler's paperwork it was learned that Randy Bettencourt had signed the receipts.

With the identification of a possible suspect, Ag Theft investigators were eventually able to connect Bettencourt to three of the six thefts at Eischen Enterprises.

On April 13, Bettencourt was taken into custody without incident at his residence in Fresno. He was booked into the Fresno County Jail on charges of grand theft and possession of stolen property.

Anyone with information on this case is asked to contact Detective Kent Jones at 898-0667, the Fresno County Sheriff's Department at 488-3111, or CrimeStoppers at 498-STOP(7867).