



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

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**MEDIA ADVISORY: Ag Theft Detectives Arrest One After Numerous Stolen Vehicles & Chop Shop Discovered**

Fresno County Sheriff Margaret Mims today announced the arrest of a Raisin City man on charges of operating a chop shop, vehicle theft, and possession of stolen property. Arrested was 23 year old Efren Lopez Jr.

The incident began on September 25<sup>th</sup> when a 1997 Caterpillar Asphalt roller was stolen from the area of Interstate 5 & Panoache Ave.

Later in the afternoon, A California Highway Patrol plane received a signal from a LoJac anti-theft device that had earlier been installed on the roller. The pilot then honed in on the signal which led him to a residence located in the 10100 block of S. Bryan Ave. in Raisin City.

While surveilling the residence from above, the pilot directed Fresno County Ag Task Force investigators to the residence where they eventually contacted Lopez Jr.

During the investigation, detectives discovered numerous stolen vehicles including the roller, a Bobcat, three John Deere tractors, three trailers, and an ATV. The estimated value of the recovered vehicles was over \$200,000.00.

Lopez was booked into the Fresno County Jail on charges of operating the chop shop, 10 counts of vehicle theft, and 10 counts of possession of stolen property.

The investigation is continuing. Anyone with information on the case is asked to contact the Ag Task Force at 898-0667, the Fresno County Sheriff's Department at 488-3111, or CrimeStoppers at 498-STOP(7867).