



# **Fresno County Sheriff's Office**

**Margaret Mims, Sheriff** **April 29, 2008**  
**News Release**

Deputy Christian Curtice – Public Information Officer  
E-Mail: [Christian.curtice@fresnosheriff.org](mailto:Christian.curtice@fresnosheriff.org)  
Office 559.488.2699 Fax 559.262.4032

## **MEDIA ADVISORY: Fuel Tank Theft Leads To Arrest Of One. Second Suspect Sought**

Fresno County Sheriff's Ag Theft investigators are seeking the public's help in locating a Kerman man in connection with the theft of a diesel fuel tank and trailer. Wanted is 37 year old Robert Rodriguez. A second suspect, 19 year old Jorge Michaels Valdez was also arrested on theft charges pertaining to the fuel tank.

Yesterday at approximately 8:00 am, deputies responded to the area of Whitesbridge and Monroe regarding the theft of a 800 gallon fuel tank and trailer. The victim reported that the tank trailer had been stolen from his storage yard and was filled with approximately 500 gallons of fuel. The estimated worth of the trailer was \$8000.00, and the fuel was approximately \$1800.00.

At 9:30 am, the Sheriff's Office received a call about two subjects trying to move a large fuel trailer in the area of Church and Floyd, approximately 3 miles from the original theft. Deputies responded and discovered a white Chevy pick up parked on a nearby dirt road. A fuel tank and trailer, that matched the description of the stolen tank and trailer was attached to pick up. Two subjects, later identified as Rodriguez and Valdez, were standing beside the trailer.

When the subjects saw deputies, they immediately ran from the vehicles. After a short foot pursuit, deputies were able to take Valdez into custody. Ag Theft investigators, Eagle One, and assisting deputies attempted to locate Rodriguez but he was not located. The subsequent investigation positively linked both Rodriguez and Valdez to the theft of the fuel tank and trailer.

Valdez was arrested on charges of vehicle theft, grand theft, and possession of stolen property. He was later booked into the Fresno County Jail.

Rodriguez is described as Hispanic, 5-9 and approximately 200 pounds with short brown hair and brown eyes. He was last seen wearing blue shorts and no shirt. He is also wanted on charges of vehicle theft, grand theft, and possession of stolen property.

Anyone with information on this case is asked to contact the Sheriff's Ag Theft Unit at 898-0667, the Fresno County Sheriff's Office at 488-3111, or CrimeStoppers at 498-STOP(7867).