



Tri-County Auto Burglary & Theft Prevention Task Force Public Information/Media Relations

For Immediate Release

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Case 18010017

Truck Tailgate Offenses

Facts surrounding the release:

On 1/13/18, three Burleson Residents reported that their tailgates had been stolen overnight in the Plantation Estates Subdivision. In one of the thefts, the victim reported that unknown persons removed his tailgate from a Toyota Tundra. The tailgate is valued at \$3,800.00. Burleson Police Officer John Mark Dicke answered one of the calls. He located a tailgate matching the stolen one on OfferUp, an online private sales website. Officer Dicke developed a possible suspect which was forwarded to investigators.

Burleson Police Officer Scott Bartlett, who is assigned to the Tri County Auto Theft Task Force, immediately began investigation of the thefts.

Through investigation, the officer found several matching tailgates for sale on OfferUp. The officer, acting in an undercover capacity, arranged to meet with the seller to attempt to confirm if the tailgate was actually the stolen tailgate from the Burleson offense. After meeting with the seller, the officer was able to confirm that the seller possessed the stolen tailgate. Through the officer's investigation, 3 suspects have been identified and a total of 11 tailgates were recovered at a conservative value of \$27,500. This investigation demonstrates the value of the partnership between the Burleson Police Department and the Tri County Auto Theft Task Force to effectively track suspects down and recover stolen property.

Photo Attached.



TF-013