

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 23, 2011

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ARRESTS MADE IN CATALYTIC CONVERTER THEFT SERIES

San Diego, CA – San Diego Police Department Southern Division Auto Theft Unit detectives, with the assistance of plainclothes detectives and Northern Division officers, have arrested Joseph L. Brouillette and Manuel E. Salido for multiple charges related to an ongoing countywide series of auto thefts and vehicle burglary cases.

Brouillette and Salido had been identified as suspects responsible for numerous vehicle thefts in the South Bay area and other locations throughout the county. Brouillette and Salido both have extensive criminal histories involving auto theft and vehicle burglary. Brouillette and Salido reside in Mexico and cross the border into San Diego, frequently committing crimes.

On June 21, 2011, at about 11:45 p.m., members of the Southern Division Auto Theft Unit set up surveillance on the two males and followed them throughout San Ysidro, into Chula Vista and finally into Pacific Beach, where they cased vehicles parked in a lot at Santa Clarita and Mission Blvd. Brouillette and Salido were apprehended as they removed the catalytic converters from two Toyota pickup trucks in the lot. The stolen property and burglary tools were recovered from the vehicle they were driving. Investigators also learned the vehicle they were driving had the VIN plate switched and may be an unreported stolen.

Both had recently been released from jail on similar charges. It is believed that both males are responsible for a large majority of the catalytic converter thefts throughout the county.

Joseph Brouillette, 32, and Manuel Salido, 49, were booked into county jail on charges of grand theft, possession of stolen property, vehicle tampering, possession of burglary tools and conspiracy to commit a crime. They are expected to be arraigned on Friday, June 24, 2011 at 1:30 p.m. in South Division Court in Chula Vista.

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