



VISALIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

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*****NEWS RELEASE*****

May 8, 2014

VPD Report Number: Multi-Agencies

Date/Time Occurred: May 6-8, 2014

Type of Incident: Bait Cargo Trailer Operation

Location: Tulare County

Name of Business (if applicable):

Suspect:

Age:

Arrested:

1. Robert Wayne Blackwell

35

Yes

2.

3.

Details: On May 8, 2014, T-RATT and allied investigators from other counties concluded a two day Bait Cargo Trailer operation in Tulare County, which resulted in the arrest of a Porterville man for cargo theft. The operation was initiated after a nation wide company had fifteen (15) tractor trailers, carrying millions of dollars worth of cargo, burglarized within the past eighteen (18) days, in and around Tulare County. On today's date at approximately 0130 hours, suspect Robert Wayne Blackwell, who is on county probation and currently out on bail, was observed breaking into the back of a locked tractor trailer. Robert Blackwell stole thousands of dollars worth of cargo and attempted to drive away from the scene. Investigators converged on Blackwell's vehicle and initiated felony stop procedures. Investigators took Blackwell into custody and discovered evidence of other cargo thefts within his vehicle. Investigators later conducted a search of Blackwell's residence and discovered additional stolen property from other thefts. Investigators believe others may have assisted Blackwell and the investigation is continuing.

Tulare County - Regional Auto Theft Taskforce (T-RATT) consists of investigators from the California Highway Patrol, Visalia Police Department, Exeter Police Department, and the Tulare County District Attorney's Investigators Office.

Arresting / Investigating Officer: T-RATT

Supervisor: CHP Sgt. Tripp

