



VISALIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

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NEWS RELEASE

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Tip Leads to Visalia Fire Department Employee Arrest

On May 8th, 2024, at approximately 3:00 PM, Detectives from the Youth Services Unit served an arrest warrant for Ignacio Ruiz, an Engineer with the Visalia Fire Department. This arrest is the result of a cyber tip obtained from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. The investigation revealed that Ruiz had exchanged and possessed child pornography. Several search warrants were served before Ruiz's arrest, which led to his identification.

Upon taking Ruiz into custody, a search warrant was conducted at his residence with the assistance of the Central California Internet Crimes Against Children Taskforce and Homeland Security.

Currently, there is no evidence of any crimes occurring while Ruiz was performing his duties with the Visalia Fire Department. However, the investigation is ongoing, and digital forensic evidence will be further examined as it progresses. He has been booked at the Tulare County pretrial facility for charges of Child Pornography.

