

PRESS RELEASE



#09152006 TOMBALL POLICE DEPARTMENT

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For Immediate Release

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Crime Trend Analysis puts "Cops on Crime"

On Tuesday morning at approximately 1:45am, Tomball Police Department responded to an audible burglary alarm at 28523 Tomball Parkway, T-Mobile Cellular. As officers arrived, they noticed that the front window of the business had been shattered. An inventory completed by the store management revealed that approximately 177 cellular phones had been taken during the burglary, totaling approximately \$30,000 loss.

As part of the investigation, Tomball Police Department contacted T-Mobile Corporate Headquarters to find that T-Mobile has suffered as victims to over twenty-four "Smash and Grab" burglaries since July 31, 2006. These burglaries have resulted in the loss of over 1000 items which include, but are not limited to cellular phones and accessories. A representative from T-Mobile stated that the total loss for the combined burglaries exceed \$100,000.

Tomball Police Department used the information relayed by T-Mobile to develop a crime trend analysis of the burglaries in the Houston area. The burglars have been making their way throughout the Houston area victimizing T-Mobile stores from various cities including Katy, Houston, Humble, Pearland, Spring, and Pasadena. Analysis of the crime trend signified a pattern for the burglaries which showed that many of the stores fell victim to multiple burglaries approximately 1-14 days following the initial strike.

Upon researching this information, Tomball Police Detectives Gary Hammond and Sergeant Ron Stewart conducted a covert operation as they worked throughout the night patiently awaiting the burglars' arrival. Approximately 24 hours after their initial burglary, two subjects approach the business carrying a sledgehammer. As they crouched down beside the business they were greeted by Tomball Police Officers.

Terrance Lamont Harrell, 24 years of age of Houston, Ezekiel Bernard Allen, 38 years of age of Houston, and Melvin Louis Williams, 40 years of age of Houston were taken into custody and charged with Burglary of a Building, which is a Felony in the State of Texas.

Through video provided by T-Mobile, several agencies are able to link the subjects involved in this case with the burglaries of the stores in their area. "The Tomball Police Department properly utilized statistical data to put Cops on Crime", said Rick Grassi, Captain of Investigations. "The crime trend clearly showed that the burglars were coming back; we were ready for them".