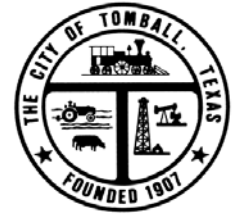




PRESS RELEASE

#10292008
TOMBALL POLICE DEPARTMENT



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(281) 351-5451 Fax: (281) 351-2615

For Immediate Release

Date: October 29, 2008
Contact: Detective Ron McGullion
Phone: (281) 290-1314

“Arrests Made in Backflow Preventer Thefts”

The Tomball Police Department conducted an ongoing investigation that involved multiple thefts of backflow preventers from commercial business sites, including one from the City’s waste water treatment plant. During the investigation, detectives obtained information that a metal recycling business, Rocky’s Scrap Metal, located at 9421 F.M. 2920 had acquired multiple stolen Backflow Preventers from various suspects.

On October 22, 2008, members of the Tomball Police Department, Criminal Investigative Division, along with investigators from the Texas Department of Public Safety conducted a search of Rock’s Scrap Metal. During the search, officers recovered 13 stolen backflow preventers, and arrested Behzad Barkat Ali, the owner of the business.



As the investigation continued, detectives acquired additional information regarding the identity of several other suspects and an additional metal recycling business that was receiving stolen property. Detectives responded to Lone Star Recycling, located at 235 W. Mt. Houston, and during the search of this location recovered 14 additional stolen backflow preventers, and obtained additional information which lead to the arrest of three additional suspects: Raymond Bird, Robin Stewart and Glenn Vaughan.

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All four suspects involved in this theft ring have been charged with 2nd degree felony theft. The approximate value of the recovered backflow preventers is estimated at \$55,000.00. Any further information regarding this case should be referred to Detective R. McGullion at the Tomball Police Department.

If you notice any suspicious activity, please notify:
Tomball Police Department at (281) 351-5451.