



Porterville Police Department Press Release

Incident: Burglary
Possession of Stolen Property
Conspiracy
Resisting Arrest
Felony Evading a Police Officer
Hit and Run
Auto Theft
Possession of Drug Paraphernalia
Driving Under the Influence of Narcotics
Possession of Narcotics

Date/Time: December 14, 2011 / 4:59 P.M.

Location: Kohl's Department Store, 1275 W. Henderson Avenue, Porterville

Suspect(s): Michelle Routh, 39 years, Tulare resident

Summary:

On December 14, 2011, at about 4:59 P.M., Officers of the Porterville Police responded to Kohl's Department Store for reports of a theft from the business, which had just occurred. While responding to the scene, Officers were provided with a description of the suspect and suspect vehicle. Officers located the vehicle and the suspect in the parking lot of the business. As contact with the suspect, identified as 39 year old Michelle Routh of Tulare, was attempted, she fled in the suspect vehicle eastbound onto Henderson Avenue, in an obvious attempt to elude officers. A pursuit was initiated, but it quickly terminated a couple blocks away after Routh's vehicle collided with a stationary object and became disabled.

Routh exited the vehicle and fled on foot, but was soon apprehended after a short foot chase. Routh was taken into custody and found to be driving under the influence of narcotics. Further investigation revealed the vehicle Routh had been driving, a 2006 Honda Civic, was stolen from Visalia earlier in the week. During a search of the vehicle Offices located drug paraphernalia and pill-form narcotics. Officers also located the stolen property from Kohl's and additional property believed to be stolen from other businesses in the Porterville and Visalia area.

Detectives from the General Investigation Division assumed the investigation and believe Routh was aided by additional female subjects in the theft from Kohl's, who have yet to be identified. Routh was booked into custody of the Tulare County Sheriffs Office on charges of burglary, possession of stolen property, conspiracy, resisting arrest, felony evading, hit and run, auto theft, possession of narcotic paraphernalia, possession of narcotics, and driving under the influence of narcotics.

This case remains under investigation and anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to call Sergeant Josh Maniss or Detective Aaron Sutherland at 782-7400.