



San Diego County SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

NEWS RELEASE INFORMATION SHEET

Subject: Arrest of Burglary and Autotheft Suspect

Date of Release: July 5, 2019

Time of Release: 10:00 am

Media Contact: Sergeant Jeff Lauhon

Email Address of Contact: jeffery.lauhon@sdsheriff.org

Telephone Number of Contact: (760)787-2241

Provider of Information (if different):

SYNOPSIS:

During the morning hours of July 5, 2019, a deputy sheriff assigned to the Julian Substation was investigating a residential burglary that had occurred in the 3300 block of Pine Hills Road during the night. While at the scene, the deputy observed an off-road style Baja Bug drive onto the victim's property. Thinking this may be the burglar returning for more property, the deputy attempted to contact the individual driving the vehicle. The driver sped away and the deputy was unable to pursue him. Other deputies responded to the area to look for the vehicle. The vehicle was located at the intersection of Pine Hills Road and Highway 78. The driver failed to negotiate his turn from Pine Hills Road to Highway 78, drove off the road, and got stuck in a ditch. Upon being contacted by a deputy, the subject fled on foot into a heavily wooded area. After an exhaustive search using ASTREA and Sheriff's K9, the subject was located and taken into custody. The Baja Bug was found to have been stolen from an earlier burglary in Borrego Springs, and suspected stolen property was recovered. 30 year old Mario Cunha from El Cajon was booked into San Diego Central Jail for burglary and auto theft charges.

Call Crime Stoppers at (888) 580-8477 with information and you will remain anonymous. You may be eligible for up to a \$1,000 reward for information leading to a felony arrest.