



Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office

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Public Information Officer
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Date: 12/17/2013
Time: 11:00 a.m.

News Release

Public Assistance Requested to Help Locate Fugitive **Suspect Drove the Wrong Way on the Freeway to Avoid Capture**

Capinteria- The Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office is requesting the public's assistance to help locate a fugitive who escaped after stealing several vehicles and who went the wrong way on the freeway to avoid being arrested. The suspect, 29 year old Juan Miguel Bejar of Oxnard, is considered dangerous and may be armed. If you see Bejar, you should not engage him but should call law enforcement immediately.

At approximately 3:25 a.m. on December 14, Sheriff's Deputies responded to the 4100 block of Via Real to a report of couple who witnessed its car being stolen in front of its residence. When the suspect, who was later identified as Bejar, observed the couple he verbally threatened to use a firearm although no weapon was seen. The victims ran back into the house and the suspect took off in their car. Bejar crashed at the scene and jumped into a green van that was waiting for him with his brother and wife inside. The green van was reported stolen out of the city of Oxnard. A high speed chase ensued but was called off for safety reasons when Bejar drove onto Highway 101 going the wrong direction. Sheriff's Deputies spotted the vehicle again shortly afterwards on Upson Road and Santa Monica Road. Bejar drove back onto Highway 101, this time in the right direction, followed by Sheriff's Deputies. The vehicle pursuit ended at Linden Avenue when a Sheriff's Deputy used a Pursuit Intervention Technique (PIT) maneuver to disable the vehicle.

Bejar fled on foot and despite search efforts by Sheriff's Deputies, who were assisted by a Sheriff's K9 Unit, the suspect was not located. His wife, 24 year old Sandra Lopez and his brother, 28 year old Jose Bejar, both of Oxnard, were arrested and charged with attempted burglary, receiving stolen property, conspiracy and possession of a controlled substance. Sheriff's Deputies searched the stolen vehicle and found stolen property and burglary tools. The reported firearm was not located.

Bejar has an extensive criminal history. If you have any information on Bejar's whereabouts or if you see him, call 911. You can also leave an anonymous tip at (805) 681-4171.



Bejar, Juan Miguel



Bejar, Jose Manuel



Lopez, Sandra