

Tehama County Sheriff's Office
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DAVE HENCRATT
SHERIFF-CORONER

PHIL JOHNSTON
UNDERSHERIFF

PRESS INFORMATION

INCIDENT: DIESEL FUEL THEFTS

CASE NUMBER: 21-00017

GENERAL LOCATION: Orange Street, Red Bluff

DATE AND TIME OF INCIDENT: January 7, 2021 @ approx. 4:00 p.m.

VICTIM: Crain Orchards

AGE: N/A

GENERAL LOCATION: Tehama County

INJURIES/LOSS/DAMAGES: 1400 gallons red dye diesel.....\$2,800

SUMMARY OF INCIDENT: Recently Tehama County has been plagued with diesel fuel thefts occurring at agricultural sites where thousands of gallons of red dye diesel fuel have been stolen. Through review of surveillance deputies were able to identify TRAVIS EUGENE BANGHART as a person of interest in the thefts.

A search warrant for Mr. Banghart's residence was served and copious amounts of red dye diesel was located in the garage and around the property. Diesel was stored in barrels and various plastic containers. A livestock trailer that was outfitted with a makeshift electric fuel pump used to pump the stolen fuel into a large plastic container in the back. The trailer itself had no identifying VIN number due to the number being ground off and painted over. A California license plate mounted to the back of the trailer came back as stolen.

A large amount of diesel fuel was found on the floor of the trailer and on the ground outside. Environmental Health and Code Enforcement was called to the scene to coordinate hazmat clean up and removal of the fuel.

Travis Banghart was not at the home at the time of the search warrant being served but was aware authorities were at the scene and spoke to them briefly through his audio/video security system. He was asked to return to the residence to be questioned about the trailer and fuel found at his home, but he refused the request.

Travis Banghart is currently being investigated as a suspect in other recent fuel thefts in the county and his whereabouts are currently unknown. It is presumed he is avoiding law enforcement contact due to his refusal to meet with authorities at the home he rents. Banghart's photo included is from his most recent booking of being in possession of stolen property in 2020.

Preparing Officer's I.D# S255

