

NEWS RELEASE

FRANCONIA TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

Box 128,
671 Allentown Road
Franconia, Pennsylvania 18924-0128

Telephone: 215-723-6777

Facsimile: 215-723-1165

Contact Person: Chief Joseph S. Kozeniewski

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TWO MEN SOUGHT IN BURGLARY AND VEHICLE THEFT

Franconia Township Police are seeking the identities of two men who burglarized a township business and who later stole a truck from another business.

At 3:30 a.m. on Friday, August 14, 2009, an officer was performing a building check of a business on Hagey Road, when he surprised two men who were behind the neighboring property at J.I. Landis Welding. The men drove off at a high rate of speed in a white pickup truck.

The officer attempted to stop the vehicle at several areas along Allentown Road and on roads leading into Lower Salford Township. The truck's passenger threw rocks and tool boxes at the officer's patrol car. The truck evaded the officer by driving across the grassy areas and fields behind several businesses along Ruth Road.

Lower Salford Township officers joined the Franconia officer in an attempt to stop the truck. The truck drove into a residential area and struck a parked vehicle on Summerwind Lane, causing extensive damage to that car and the pickup truck. Both occupants of the truck ran from the vehicle and into the remote areas nearby. Police encountered heavy fog in the area. A canine team from the Plymouth Township Police Department began a track of the area but was unsuccessful in locating the men.

The owner of J.I. Landis reported that a large amount of stainless steel and copper products were stolen from the site. These items were found in the bed of the pickup truck. It was learned that the truck had been reported stolen in mid-June near Morgantown in Chester County.

Both of the suspects then apparently made their way to the parking lot of Transportation Services Inc. on School House Road in Franconia. Surveillance video showed that the suspects then stole a 2002 Chevrolet Silverado pickup truck from the lot at about 6:15 a.m.

Officers from Towamencin and Hatfield Townships, Telford, Souderton, Lansdale, State Police, and the Upper Perk Police District also provided assistance with the search. Franconia police are continuing the investigation of this and recent thefts of metals from other township businesses during the overnight hours.

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