

PRESSRELEASE

Coalinga Police Department · 270 N. Sixth Street · Coalinga, CA 93210-1908 · (559) 935-2313 · Fax: (559) 935-1756
Website: www.coalinga.com
E-mail: police@coalinga.com

Calvin D. Minor

Chief of Police



For Immediate Release:

Date: August 9, 2014

Prepared By/Contact Person: Sgt. Manny Boulos

“Property Dispute Leads Son to douse Family Member and Car with Gasoline”

On August 8, 2014, at 7:20 am, members Coalinga Police Department responded to the 100 block alley of Madison Street on a report of an attempted arson.

While at the scene, officers learned that 22 year old Coalinga resident Cezar Oropeza had gotten into an argument with family members over property. Oropeza left the resident only to return moments later with gasoline. Family members watched Oropeza pouring gasoline onto the family's parked vehicle and confronted him as he was attempting to light the flammable liquid.

During a brief struggle with a family member, Oropeza poured gasoline onto a family member. He stopped when he was alerted that police had been called. Oropeza fled the scene in what turned out to be a stolen Ford SUV out of Huron.

Officers began a search of various areas for Oropeza and the vehicle he was driving. The Ford SUV he last seen driving was located abandoned in a field in the outskirts of Coalinga. The vehicle had been reported stolen to the Huron Police Department hours earlier.

After several hours of active searching, police officers located Oropeza in the 500 block of West Houston Street where he was taken into custody.

Oropeza was booked into the Fresno County main jail on charges of attempted arson, assault with a deadly weapon, and auto theft.

“All suspects are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law”

