



City of Ridgecrest Police Department

100 W. California Ave. • Ridgecrest, CA 93555 • 760.499.5100 • fax 760.371.1674
RONALD N. STRAND, Chief of Police

Press Release

DATE OF INCIDENT: March 11, 2019

TYPE OF INCIDENT: PC 460(b) – Burglary, PC 484g(a) – Forged Access Cards, PC 530.5 – Personate to get Money, PC 466 – Possession of Burglary Tools and CVC 10750(a) – Alter Vehicle VIN (Vehicle Identification Number)

SUSPECT: Tone, Edward William – 34 years old, Romanian National

RESUME OF INCIDENT

On 3/11/2019, Detectives from the Ridgecrest Police Department received information through Desert Valley Federal Credit Union employees of possible fraud in progress.

Upon arrival, Detectives based on the information provided, detained the suspect who was in the process of actively withdrawing money from the DVFCU ATM using forged bank cards. The suspect was identified as Edward William Tone, who is a Romanian National. Tone is believed to be a part of a larger group who is not only responsible for the gas station skimmers, but also the ATM fraud in town. Tone was found to be in possession of several forged bank cards, tools needed to open the gas station pumps for installing skimmers, and over \$2,300.00 of suspected fraudulently obtained U.S. currency.

Tone was later booked into the Kern County Central Receiving facility in Bakersfield, and is currently being held on a no bail hold.

Remember to always be on the lookout for suspicious activity at and around your gas pumps and ATM machines. If you see any suspicious activity, please don't hesitate to call the Ridgecrest Police Department at (760) 499-5100.

Jed McLaughlin, Chief of Police

PREPARED BY: Investigations Sergeant R. Marrone

Friday, March 15, 2019