



# City of Ridgecrest Police Department

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MICHAEL D. AVERY, Chief of Police

## Press Release

**DATE OF INCIDENT:** 04/21/2007  
**TYPE OF INCIDENT:** STOLEN VEHICLE RECOVERY  
**LOCATION OCCURED:** 100 BLOCK OF S. LILAQ SQ.  
**VICTIM:** HERMOSA BEACH RESIDENT  
**SUSPECT(S):** BURRIS, JOSEPH LEROY 35-YEARS-OLD

On 04/21/2007, the Ridgecrest Police Department was notified by the California Highway Patrol that a CHP airship had acquired a “LoJack” signal (Stolen Vehicle Recovery Device) of a stolen vehicle and tracked it to the Ridgecrest area. The vehicle had been reported stolen on 04/15/2007 out of the city of Hermosa Beach and the attached “LoJack” device had been activated. A joint investigation with RPD, CHP, and the Kern County Sheriff’s Office led to a residence in the 100 block of S. Lilaq Sq. in the city of Ridgecrest.

While conducting interviews at the residence, Joseph Burris, was seen driving the vehicle near the location. He was followed to the location where he was taken into custody without incident. Further investigation revealed Burris’s driver’s license was suspended and he had an active misdemeanor warrant for his arrest.

Burris was transported to the Kern County Jail – Ridgecrest Facility where he was booked on the warrant and open charges of vehicle theft and driving while license is suspended.

The stolen vehicle was towed, stored, and subsequently returned to the legal owner.

“LoJack” officials credit the successful recovery of the stolen vehicle to the outstanding cooperation between local area law enforcement agencies. The ‘LoJack’ signal had only been acquired for a few seconds and only a general location was given to the investigating officers.

Prepared by Sgt. Justin M. Dampier

**MICHAEL D. AVERY Chief of Police**  
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