



**Chico Police Department**, 1460 Humboldt Road, Chico, CA, 95928 [www.chico.ca.us/](http://www.chico.ca.us/)  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Tuesday, August 8, 2017

## **Not on My Watch! Would-Be Victim Flips the Script on Burglary Suspect** *-- Incident is Reminder for Increased Property & Safety Awareness --*

**Chico, CA** – A 23-year old Chico resident placed a 911 call for help that forced the hand of a would-be burglar and led to the discovery of squatters in an adjacent, unoccupied unit. On Tuesday, August 8, 2017, just before 7:30AM, Chico Police officers responded to an apartment unit in the 1100 block of Hobart Street, on a reported burglary in progress.

The female caller, who was home alone at the time, reported waking up to find someone inside her apartment. The young resident said she could hear someone moving things around the apartment. The caller locked herself in her closet and continued to give Chico Police Dispatch updated information. At one point, the female looked out into the family room and reported seeing a male subject carrying items. The caller provided a clothing description of the subject for officers responding to the scene.

Several Chico Police Officers arrived on scene and set up a perimeter. At one point, the suspect started to exit the front door and spotted several police officers outside. He retreated inside the apartment, with officers right behind him. The suspect made his way to the back of the apartment and tried to escape but ran into several more officers positioned in the backyard. The suspect, identified at 25-year old Esteban Salazar, a transient from Chico, gave up and was taken into custody without incident. He is charged with 459 PC, Residential Burglary.

While on scene and during the investigation, Chico Police discovered several individuals using the vacant neighboring apartment as their home. Evidence at the scene suggested someone from that vacant apartment may have been involved in the burglary.

A subsequent search of the apartment led to the discovery of a 21-year old transient female hiding inside with her dog. That female was a relative to Salazar, suspected in the burglary from the neighboring apartment. Officers also made contact with a male who was hiding in the attic and refused to come out. Officers then climbed into the attic and located the suspect hiding under insulation. That suspect was identified as 45-year old Troy Dean, a Chico transient. Dean was found in possession of narcotics and narcotic paraphernalia. Officers arrested Dean, charging him with resisting arrest and various other drug-related charges.

Both Salazar and Dean were transported to the Butte County Jail. Salazar had previous arrests for trespassing and vandalism. Dean had an extensive criminal history to include burglary, firearm brandishing and possession of stolen property.

The resident involved was not harmed in any way.

Chico Police would like to remind the public that while not all such incidents can be prevented, residents should always be aware of their surroundings. The following are safety precautions residents can take to reduce the likelihood of becoming a victim:

- Residents should *always* keep their windows and doors locked in both homes and vehicles.
- Many burglars gain entry to residences and vehicles through unlocked doors and windows.
- Most residential burglaries are daytime incidents with subjects likely to target residences when they believe no one is home.
- When you do leave, close blinds or curtains and do not leave valuables in sight.
- If you have an alarm system, use it and advertise your property is protected by an alarm. Place alarm stickers visible on every door and window.
- Know your neighbors and keep an eye on each other.
- Be aware of unusual activity taking place in a unit or home you know to be vacant. If you suspect individuals are living in the property or other illegal activity is occurring, notify the police.

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Location: 1100 block Hobart Street Chico, Ca

Date/Time: 8-8-2017 at 0725 hours

Incident Case Number (17-5467)

Victim (Withheld)

Suspect #1 Esteban Salazar (12-13-91) Chico transient

Suspect #2 Troy Dean (7-8-72) Chico transient

Supervisor: Sgt. Todd Lefkowitz S-20

Watch Commander: Lt. Billy Aldridge L4