



Press Release

Date: May 15, 2018

Time: 1700

Original

AGENCY: CARVER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

SHERIFF: JIM OLSON (802JK)

CLASSIFICATION: PURSUIT

LOCATION: CARVER COUNTY, MN

TELEPHONE: 952-361-1212

Carver County Sheriff Jim Olson reports that on May 14, 2018, at about 4:02 PM, deputies were dispatched to investigate a report of a suspicious vehicle at 4655 Co Rd 123, Watertown Township, MN. The suspect vehicle had already left the scene when the caller reported the incident. The caller requested extra patrols in the area.

Deputies ran the motor vehicle registration provided by the caller and learned the vehicle had been stolen from Shakopee. The suspect in the vehicle theft was identified as Vernon Terry Surratt (DOB 7/31/1980). Deputies further learned Surratt was a fugitive wanted by the MN Department of Corrections (DOC).

On May 15, 2018, at about 10:21 AM, a deputy located the stolen vehicle and suspect driver who fled when the deputy tried to stop the vehicle. Deputies pursued the vehicle west on MN 7 into McLeod County, south through Lester Prairie, back into rural parts of Carver County before turning east on MN 7. Deputies, who were assisted by McLeod County Sheriff's Office, Lester Prairie PD, MN State Patrol, MN DNR, Minnetrista Public Safety Department, and South Lake Minnetonka Public Safety made several attempts to stop the vehicle using tire deflation devices, which the suspect was able to avoid.

As the vehicle approached MN 7 at Minnewashta Parkway, the vehicle swerved to avoid tire deflation devices and lost control of the vehicle, colliding with a motorist who was stopped at the intersection. The suspect attempted to flee, but was boxed in by pursuing law enforcement and arrested without further incident.

The female motorist who was struck by the suspect vehicle, Katy Esmerald Perez-Velazquez (42) of Shorewood, suffered injuries in the crash and was transported by Ridgeview Ambulance to 212 Medical Center in Chaska.

The suspect, Vernon Surratt of Coon Rapids, received minor injuries in the crash and was treated and released from 212 Medical Center in Chaska. He was transported to the Carver County Jail where he remains pending formal charges in this incident, as well as being held on the DOC warrants.

A female passenger in the stolen vehicle, Mellisa Coal Martinson (34) of Minneapolis, was not injured and had no involvement in this incident other than being a passenger. She was released at the scene.

In addition to the stolen vehicle and Ms. Perez-Velazquez's vehicle, four squad cars were damaged in this incident. One squad struck the tire deflation devices, flattening three tires, and three squads were damaged while attempting to box in the suspect vehicle. MN State Patrol is investigating the motor accidents.

If you need assistance from police, fire or medical personnel call 9-1-1. Anyone with information related to this incident or any crime is asked to contact the Carver County Sheriff's Office at 952-361-1231 or use the tip line 952-361-1224. Our tip form is at <http://www.co.carver.mn.us/departments/county-sheriff/crime-prevention/crime-tips>