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Police: Man 'high' on meth

Suspect was allegedly stealing copper wire; it's the second wire theft this week

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A 33-year-old man who was "extremely high" on methamphetamine was arrested early Friday morning after allegedly stealing copper wire from a Los Gatos elementary school construction site and leading police on a foot chase, officials said.

It's the second time in a week that police in Los Gatos have arrested someone on suspicion of stealing copper wire, worth more than $1 per pound wholesale, two metal recyclers said Friday.

Around 4:30 a.m., an alarm went off at Blossom Hill Elementary School at 14600 Blossom Hill Road in Los Gatos.

While two police officers were checking the outside of the school, they saw Daniel Todd, 33, of Los Gatos, running away with "a large amount of copper wire," according to a news release.

A police dog ran after Todd and managed to bite him in the leg. He kicked the dog free and climbed over the fence into the school's construction site, according to news release.

Officers from Campbell, San Jose and the Los Gatos/Monte Sereno police department set up a perimeter around the school and reportedly found Todd hiding in the open rafters of one of the buildings.

He reportedly ran across the roof

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the building, jumped to the ground and fled toward a perimeter fence, with the police dog right on his heels. Police officers were waiting on the other side of the fence and arrested him, according to the news release.

"This is another case absolutely fueled by methamphetamine," Los Gatos/Monte Sereno canine officer Erin Lunsford said in the release. "The suspect was a large man and he was extremely high on meth. As an example, this guy ran off of an eight- to 10-foot roof onto the ground at a dead run, without stopping. It was just like in the movies."

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>
> *Los Gatos/Monte Sereno canine officer Erin Lunsford*

Todd is on probation for drug-related offenses and was held Friday on suspicion of burglary, possession of stolen property, resisting arrest, being under the influence of drugs, being in possession of drug paraphernalia and on two outstanding warrants.

He was treated for minor injuries at Valley Medical Center and booked into Santa Clara County main jail.

Attempts to contact Todd's family in Los Gatos were unsuccessful.

On Tuesday, police in Los Gatos arrested two men who were allegedly high on methamphetamine and found pipe cutters, pry bars, hammers, ropes, flashlights and copper wire in their car.

Officers later searched a house in San Jose connected to the men and allegedly recovered stripped electrical wiring inside.

It appears the arrests this week are not connected, Los Gatos/Monte Sereno police officer Kevin Elliott said.

Los Gatos has been recently hit with a string of similar thefts of copper, including copper piping at Blossom Hill Elementary School. Officials at the school installed an alarm system following the pipe theft, which they activated Thursday night — just hours before Todd's arrest, Elliott said.

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