



FORT BRAGG POLICE DEPARTMENT

250 Cypress Street
Fort Bragg, CA 95437-5437

MARK PUTHUFF
Chief of Police

(707) 961-2800
Fax: (707) 961-2806

PRESS RELEASE

Releasing Officer: Sergeant Brandon A. Lee
Report Number: FQ0800539
Date / Time Incident: 04/26/08 – 0028 hours
Location of Incident: 500 Blk. Walnut Street Fort Bragg, CA
Crime or Incident: Driving Under the Influence / Hit and Run
Victim: Michael Lee / State of CA
Suspect: Abel Orta-Flores

Circumstances: Officers were dispatched to the area of the 500 Blk. of Walnut Street for a report of a vehicle colliding with a residence at the corner of Walnut St. and Espey Way. Officers arrived and discovered the strong odor of propane, and realizing the vehicle had collided with the main propane line into the residence, immediately notified the fire department for assistance.

Officers were informed by a witness, that the driver had fled the scene on foot after the collision. Officers immediately began to check the area for the suspect who had been described by a witness as being a Hispanic male adult.

Officers conducted a brief search of the surrounding area, and discovered the suspect lying in bushes nearby.

The surrounding dwellings were evacuated for the safety of the residents, and none were allowed to return inside until the leaking propane was shut off by an employee of a local propane business.

Fort Bragg Fire Department assisted in controlling the occupants of the residences from returning to the middle of the scene.

The suspect was ultimately taken into custody without any incident.