



## COUNTY OF FRESNO

Lisa A. Smittcamp  
District Attorney

### NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
April 17, 2020

## Multiple Defendants Charged with Looting in Fresno County

Criminal charges including allegations of “Looting” committed during the current COVID-19 Pandemic have begun to be filed against individuals in the Fresno County Superior Court, the Fresno County District Attorney’s Office has announced.

A felony crime of “Looting” is committed when a crime of Second-Degree Burglary or Grand Theft is committed during and within an affected county in a “state of emergency,” a “local emergency,” or under an “evacuation order.” Misdemeanor Looting is committed when an individual commits the crime of Petty Theft under these circumstances. [Penal Code § 463.]

Typical Second-Degree Burglaries being committed are those of businesses or of automobiles. The crimes of Grand Theft include certain agricultural thefts, as well as thefts where the value of the stolen item(s) exceeds \$950.

The crime of Looting carries increased penalties above those for the underlying crime, such as additional time in custody at sentencing.

More notably, the felony crime of Looting is exempt from the recent Emergency Bail Schedule enacted by the California Judicial Council last week which set bail for most offenses, including Second-Degree Burglary and Grand Theft, at \$0. Meaning, an individual arrested or charged with Felony Looting will not be released from the Fresno County Jail without having to post any bail, but rather, will have bail set at an amount of at least \$10,000 to \$15,000, depending on the specific charges.

The Fresno County District Attorney’s Office remains committed to protecting the citizens of Fresno County who are being victimized during these especially trying times, and we will continue to file charges of looting in the appropriate circumstances in order to hold criminal offenders accountable for their actions.

To date, the District Attorney’s Office has filed Felony Looting charges against:

- 1.) An individual who allegedly burglarized a closed business using the victim’s forklift to carry away the stolen items [People v. Gilbert Ramirez, case number pending];
- 2.) An individual (who was out-of-custody with a Felony Evading and Felony DUI Causing Injury case and a Misdemeanor DUI case pending) who allegedly broke into a disabled car and stole the victims’ personal items from it [People v. Stanley Ireland, F20902475]; and

3.) An individual (who was out-of-custody with a Residential Burglary case pending) who allegedly stole a victim's work truck from his driveway [People v. Pablo Garcia, F20902518].

The media may email [FCDAMedia@fresnocountyca.gov](mailto:FCDAMedia@fresnocountyca.gov) with questions regarding the state charges.

\*\*\*

[20-10466; 20-10138; 20-9878]