

PRESS RELEASE

Candia Police Department

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Chase concludes Candia catalytic converter caper

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JACOB HODGDON

CANDIA – A Vermont man is facing several charges after police say he attempted to steal a catalytic converter from a car at a local automotive store and then tried to flee.

Jacob Hodgdon, 30, of Burlington, was arrested Thursday morning after a brief foot chase in a wooded area near the Irving gas station on Old Candia Road.

Officer Dan Gray said Hodgdon is being investigated for possible thefts of catalytic converters in New York and Vermont. Police are now investigating whether he could be connected to several similar thefts in New Hampshire.

"We're trying to connect with other departments to see what their status is with recent thefts," Gray said.

The most recent thefts occurred over the past two weeks in Brentwood, where police said 18 catalytic converters were stolen by a thief who used a saw to cut them out of buses parked at the Provider Enterprises Inc.

Catalytic converters are part of a vehicle's emissions control system and have become hot items for thieves who steal them to sell to metal recycling centers.

The hunt for Hodgdon began just before 1 a.m. Thursday after Officer Kevin Cashman spotted a suspicious Ford F350 pickup truck parked across the street from Quest Auto Exchange at 17 Old Manchester Road.

Cashman stopped to investigate the truck and found seven catalytic converters sitting in the truck's bed. The hood of the truck was still warm, leading him to believe that the truck hadn't been there long and that the driver must be nearby.

While investigating the scene, Cashman found a car at Quest Auto Exchange that appeared to have been targeted. Gray said police believe Hodgdon attempted to steal a catalytic converter from the vehicle before fleeing the scene.

Additional police were called in, with help from state police and Deerfield police, to assist as a perimeter was set up to catch Hodgdon.

Police searched the area and nearby woods. Cashman found Hodgdon four hours later at the Irving station. He ran through the woods but Cashman managed to catch up to him.

Hodgdon was charged with attempted theft, operating with a suspended license, criminal trespass, resisting arrest, criminal mischief, and making false reports to law enforcement.

He was arraigned on the charges Thursday via video conference from the Rockingham County jail, where he is being held on \$5,000 cash bail.

Police urge anyone with information about the case to contact the Candia Police Department at 483-2318.