

**For Immediate Release
September 22, 2011
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To: Media

Chief Wayne M. Longo

Coeur d'Alene Police Department
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Coeur d'Alene Police Detectives recently closed thirty-one auto burglary cases, and two felony malicious-injury to property cases that were reported over the course of this summer by arresting and charging three male juveniles with those crimes. Detective Alan Winstead believes several more reported burglaries in the City of Coeur d'Alene and in Kootenai County could be connected to these males. Detectives are continuing their investigation in an effort to resolve all of the cases possibly connected to the suspects.

The juvenile's names will not be released but they are the ages of 13, 16, and 17. The 13 year-old male was a reported runaway at the time of his arrest and recently moved here from Billings Montana. The 17 year old was also a reported runaway and resides in Coeur d'Alene. The 16 year old resides in Coeur d'Alene.

On September 6th 2011 Detectives received a tip from a male transient that had been residing in an area near the Spokane River just West of Riverstone and outside of the City limits. The witness told police he had been staying at a makeshift camp near the river and several juveniles were also camping in the same vicinity. He overheard them talking about cars they had burglarized and they were bragging about throwing stolen property into the river.

The witness had spoken to a bus driver working at Riverstone the day before, and was informed of several car burglaries that had just occurred. The witness believed these males were involved and notified Coeur d'Alene Police.

Both Coeur d'Alene City and Kootenai County detectives responded to the area and located the male juveniles. They were found to be in possession of several items of stolen property. The Sheriff's Department recovered stolen property in the river downstream from the juvenile's campsite. The items recovered were computers, iPods, cell phones and other miscellaneous property that was damaged beyond repair.

Over a period of several days Detective Winstead reviewed several reported auto burglaries that initially had no suspect information. He interviewed all three juveniles separately and determined they were responsible for many of these crimes. The males have initially been charged with eleven felony counts of burglary as well as several misdemeanor related charges. The juveniles indicated they broke into as many as ninety cars.

Many of the vehicles were left unlocked by their owners, and some of them had their windows smashed in by the suspects in order to gain entry. Detectives are continuing the investigation of reported cases. One of the male juveniles is also possibly responsible for some graffiti vandalism that occurred within the City of Coeur d'Alene.

**Sergeant Christie Wood
Public Information Officer
Coeur d'Alene Police Department**