

A large, dynamic splash of blue water is on the left side of the page, with water droplets and bubbles visible. The splash curves upwards and to the right, creating a sense of movement.

## H.R. LaBounty Safety Awards Nomination Form

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### **Nomination Deadlines:**

**Spring Awards:** February 1, 2022

**Fall Awards:** September 1, 2022

**Agency:** Madera Irrigation District

**Project/Initiative Title:** Security System Upgrade

Implementation Date: April 2022

Cost to Implement: 5 - Ring Floodlight Cameras \$1,200., 2 - additional floodlights \$1,200., In-house shop labor \$1,000. Total Costs = \$3,400.

Staff Time Required: 40 hours

Number of Employees/Facilities Impacted: 48 employees

**Employee/Department/Committee Nominated:**

Name(s): Charles Contreras

Job Title/Department: Operations & Maintenance

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## Nomination Summary

*Write a brief summary of your project/initiative. Clearly state the problem/hazard recognized by the nominee and the specific reasons that they initiated corrective action.*

In recent years the District has experienced multiple catalytic converter thefts from our truck and equipment. The assailants were committing the crime and getting away without our ability to identify and have a resolution to the incidents. While investigating these thefts, we discovered the issue of substandard video surveillance and lighting.

Our inability to have immediate notice of thefts at the time they are taking place and poor lighting of previous security systems, we were experiencing repeated incidents and many culprits performing these acts were not being caught and held accountable.

Following the security audit it was suggested/recommended by the Safety & Wellness Committee to install a new security system and in doing so apply for the JPIA safety grant to receive reimbursement. In the vetting process, Charles Contreras looked into multiple systems for improvement to our current and based on his findings of security inadequacies, the RING system was selected and installed.

*Describe the specific actions taken to resolve the problem(s) or challenge(s). Share the best practices that made this initiative successful for the agency and its impact.*

The District has increased the proficiency of our security system by installing additional flood lights which aid in visual surveillance and 5 new RING Security cameras throughout the District premises specifically in areas lacking video coverage.

On June 8, at approximately 11:45 pm we received a notification from our newly installed system identifying movement in the north area of our District parking lot. Once the notice was identified as a security threat, law enforcement was immediately contacted and were able to arrive on the scene in time to apprehend the intruders while still in the act of theft.

The system improved our reaction time and allowed law enforcement to recover 5 catalytic converters that the District was able to re-install saving the District approximately \$10,000 in parts as well as zero liability claims submitted and deductibles paid.

*State whether the hazard was reduced with engineering controls, introduced a new administrative or work procedure, or relied on personal protective equipment to solve the problem.*

The hazard was identified and reduced by engineering controls. Ring cameras and better lighting.

*Describe any extraordinary circumstances that made this nominee's safety accomplishments significant. Describe whether the nominee influenced safety in the workplace, encouraged employee participation in safety efforts, obtained organizational "buy in" to implement the solution.*

The District continues to look for ways to steadily improve the safety of staff and District resources. The implementation of improvements to our security system by Charles Contreras allows for a greater deterrent for criminals and helps to mitigate theft.

*Describe whether the project/initiative addressed a hazard or exposure included in the JPIA Commitment to Excellence Program.*

☐ Office/Field Ergonomics

☐ Vehicle Operations

☐ Slip/trip/falls – falls from heights

☒ Other: Infrastructure - Theft & Vandalism (Security audit performed initially when attempting to prepare documents for JPIA safety grant.

*List and attach any supporting materials that you feel are important for the reviewers to gain a complete picture of the nomination. Digital photos, supporting documentation, sample forms, etc.*

Additional information included:

1. Pictures of flood lighting structures, cameras, and high resolution picture of thieves in the act.
2. Local news articles and District Social Media post

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**Nominated by:** Tanesha Welch

**Date:** 07/25/2022

**General Manager:**



**Date:**

8/5/22

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Please email this form with supporting documents and digital photos (jpg) to [tlofin@acwajpia.com](mailto:tlofin@acwajpia.com).



## Man caught in the act stealing catalytic converters in Madera, police say

by Stephen Hawkins | Thursday, June 9th 2022



Booking photo of 31-year-old Gustavo Galvan of Fresno (Photo: Madera Police Department)





MADERA, Calif. (FOX26) — Madera police arrested a man they say was in the process of stealing catalytic converters from multiple vehicles at the Madera Irrigation District (MID) facility Wednesday night.

Around 10:45 p.m., a MID employee monitoring the surveillance cameras noticed the suspects park a white van in a nearby orchard, cut the chain link fence and enter the facility.

When police arrived, they saw two people running from the property toward the van in the orchard.

Police were able to catch 31-year-old Gustavo Galvan of Fresno next to the van.

The van was later found to be stolen out of Fresno.

Police say they found Sawzall's and saw blades inside the van.

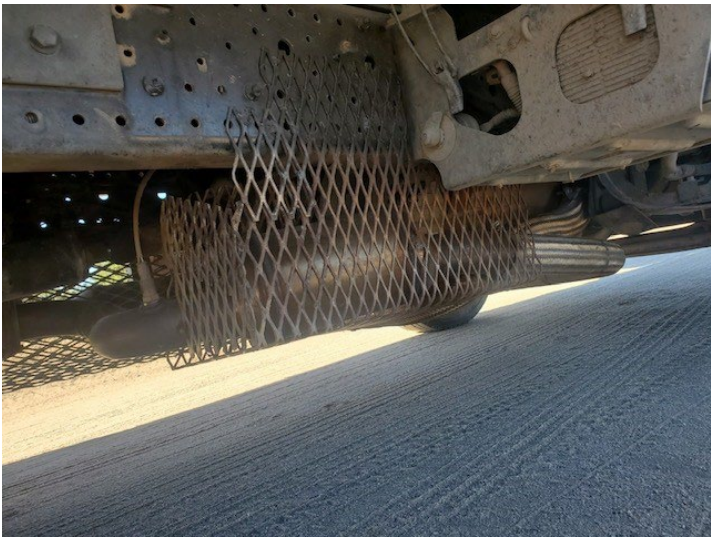
They say the suspects had already cut off 5 catalytic converters from MID trucks and started to cut off two more before officers arrived.

Gustavo was booked into the Madera County Jail on numerous charges.

The other person was not found.

Anyone with information is asked to call the Madera Police Department at (559) 675-4200.











**Madera Irrigation District**

June 9 · 🌐

Thank you to Madera Police Department!



**City of Madera Police Department**

June 9 · 🌐

Last night at approximately 10:45 pm, Madera Police Officers were dispatched to the Madera Irrigation District (MID) facility regarding subjects cutting the fen... [See more](#)



06/08/2022 22:51:31 PDT