



Equipment Theft Alert

Minnesota Bobcat, Trailer 12.02.2017

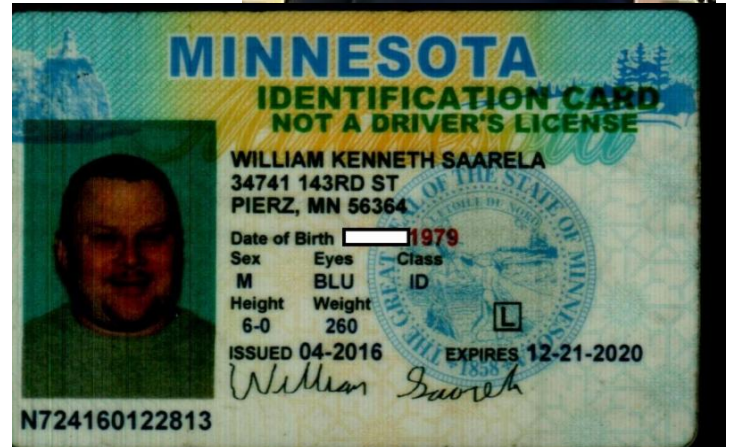
On December 2nd, 2017, a subject using the name William Kenneth Saarela, with addresses in Sebeka and Pierz, Minnesota, rented a Bobcat T-650 and trailer on a one-day rental from a rental business in Pine City, Minnesota and failed to return the equipment when it was due. The subject, accompanied by an unidentified female, towed the equipment with a Home Depot Ford flatbed truck.



In the late night hours of December 5th, the trailer was dumped at the rental business by a Suburban, Tahoe or Yukon SUV (see image below). As of the date of this alert, neither the subject nor the Bobcat Loader can be located.

Pine County Sheriff's Incident 17278443

Pictured is the male subject Saarela and the ID he presented.



NER received numerous reports of similar thefts from several areas of the country, where fraudulent renters use Home Depot or U-Haul trucks to tow off rented equipment and trailers. NER strongly encourages additional scrutiny in these circumstances:

- Require the tow vehicle driver's identification and proof of insurance.
- Require the towing vehicle rental contract confirming whether the tow vehicle may be used to tow equipment, and whether the renter obtained collision/loss damage waiver that covers trailers and cargo. NER verified with U-Haul that their contract forbids towing with a rented U-Haul truck a trailer not rented from U-Haul.
- Contact the truck rental company to verify liability coverage and the status of the rental.



Home Depot truck towing trailer and Bobcat Loader



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SUV dumping trailer
afterhours December
5th



Equipment Details:

Make/Model: 2015 Bobcat T-650

Type: Compact Tracked Loader/Tracked Skid Steer

Product Identification Number: **ALJG13441**

Owner Applied Number: **714**

Pictured is an example of a similar Bobcat T-650. The machine PIN plate is on the right upper frame, behind the cab and near the loader hydraulic cylinder (with the bucket lowered).



Law Enforcement - For access to NER's equipment ownership registration and theft records, and for machine identification assistance, call NICB: **800-447-6282**. For online access, see www.ner.net/law-enforcement.html

Industry – Report suspicious activity involving equipment – **Dial 911**

Register to receive NER's email alerts at: www.ner.net/theft-alerts.html