



**Chico Police Department**, 1460 Humboldt Road, Chico, CA, 95928 [www.chico.ca.us/](http://www.chico.ca.us/)  
530.897.4900

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: 03/06/2019

### **Chico Airport Disruption**

On 03/06/2019 at approximately 1303 hours, CPD dispatch received a report of a subject who was asking for help and stated he was suicidal. He would not provide his location other than near El Paso Way and E. Lassen Ave. Officers checked the area, but the subject would not remain on the line with CPD dispatch. CPD officers did an extensive area check, but were unable to locate him.

Approximately one hour later, the same subject called CPD and reported he had just stolen a truck at the Chico Airport. This was the same male subject who had called CPD earlier from the E. Lassen Ave and El Paso Way area. While on the phone with this subject, CPD dispatch then received a second call advising them an unauthorized vehicle was driving on the runway of the airport. The vehicle was a jet fuel tanker truck privately owned by an aviation company operating out of the Chico airport. All air traffic was alerted and no aircraft were ever in jeopardy.

Officers arrived on scene and located the jet fuel truck outside the secure area of the airport driving near Liberator Avenue and Boeing Avenue. When officers attempted a vehicle stop, the vehicle yielded almost immediately. The driver, who was the sole occupant, exited from the driver's seat of the vehicle and began to pace near the vehicle. It was obvious to the CPD officers on scene the subject was suffering from a mental health crisis. CPD officers on scene started verbal dialogue with the subject. Both CPD officers who were on scene at the time are trained in Crisis Intervention Techniques. The officers began to de-escalate the situation using verbal dialogue with the subject. After a few moments, the subject voluntarily sat on the sidewalk and was placed in handcuffs as a precaution. The subject suffered no injuries as a result of the incident.

The subject was then transported to a local mental health facility to receive treatment and mental health services.

The fuel truck had been parked within the secure fenced in area of the airport where access is prohibited. How the subject entered that area is still under investigation. Extremely minor damage to the exit gate and no damage to the privately owned fuel truck. The fuel truck was returned to its rightful owner.

### **Chico, CA –**

Location: Chico Municipal Airport

Date/Time: 03/06/2019 1415 hours

Victim: N/A

Suspect: Name Withheld

Supervisor: Sgt. Jeff Durkin

Watch Commander: Cmdr. Jeramie Struthers

