



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
DIVISION OF STATE POLICE  
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE



Leonard C. Boyle  
*Commissioner of Public Safety*

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*Deputy Commissioner, Division of State Police*

## STATE POLICE MAKE ARREST IN SCHOOL BUS VANDELISM CASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: 09/02/05

LOCATION: Thompson Highway Department, 255 Buckley Hill Road, Thompson, and Ct.  
Incident: Vandalism to 24 Town of Thompson School Buses

On 08/31/05, at approximately 5:45 a.m., Connecticut State Police Troop D received a complaint reporting vandalism to 24 school buses that were parked in the Thompson Highway Department parking lot at 255 Buckley Hill Road in Thompson. School bus drivers arrived for work that morning and discovered that sometime overnight unknown person(s) had entered the 24 school parked buses and released the chemical contents of the fire extinguishers throughout the interior of each school bus. The vandals also set fire to some trash on one of the buses and had stole two video cameras from two other buses.

The damage to the interior of these buses was so significant that each bus had to be cleaned by town highway department and volunteer fire department personnel. The damage to these 24 buses along with the emptying of 24 fire extinguishers forced Thompson School Officials to cancel school on 08/31/05 for over 1,500 students, K-12, enrolled in the Thompson School System. These damaged school buses encompassed the entire fleet for the Thompson School System.

State Police Troopers from Troop D, the Thompson Resident State Trooper, and State Police Detectives were all assigned to initiate a criminal investigation into this crime. Troopers went door to door throughout the town talking to residents and developing leads and information. Detectives conducted extensive crime scene examination and processing of each of the 24 school buses.

Through the investigative effort all involved Troopers, especially the lead investigators TFC John Aiello (Thompson Resident State Trooper) and TFC Todd Stevens (Troop D patrol trooper) two suspects were identified and the two stolen camcorders were recovered.

Two 14-year-old juveniles whose identities are being withheld but who are residents in the community are being charged by State Police with the following crimes:

- Burglary 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree (24 counts)
- Criminal Mischief 1<sup>st</sup> Degree (24 counts)
- Larceny 4<sup>th</sup> Degree
- Reckless Burning
- Criminal Trespass 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree

###END###

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