



\*\*\* For Immediate Release \*\*\*

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**Spokane Regional Auto Theft Task Force takes down “Chop Shop”**

**Spokane** - On April 24, 2019, Detectives with the Spokane Regional Auto Theft Task Force executed an Auto Theft search warrant in the Spokane Valley at a residence located at 4508 E. 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

During the investigation, it was determined that a “Chop Shop” was being conducted on the property, and stolen vehicle parts and major component parts were located from a 2007 Ford F250 4X4 pickup, belonging to the Spokane Valley Miller Paint Company. The pickup had been reported stolen to the Spokane County Sheriff’s Office in February of 2019, and the investigation was later turned over to the Spokane Regional Auto Theft Task Force. The investigation revealed that the Miller Paint Company’s stolen fuel card assigned to the stolen vehicle, was fraudulently used over the course of several days in February at gas stations within Spokane County.

During the Auto Theft Task Force’s investigation, 37 year old Valeriy Aleshkin was arrested and booked into the Spokane County Jail for Taking a Motor Vehicle without Permission in the 1<sup>st</sup> Degree. Additional Felony charges on Aleshkin will be forwarded to the Spokane County Prosecutors Office.

The Spokane Regional Auto Theft Task Force is a multi-agency unit comprised of detectives from the Washington State Patrol, Spokane Police Department and the Spokane County Sheriff’s Office.

Prior to being stolen, the vehicle looked similar to this:



Parts located after search warrant was executed:





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