



**ERIK NASARENKO**  
**District Attorney**

**NEWS RELEASE**

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Approved: LOL  
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**Man Pleads Guilty to Auto Insurance Fraud, Hazardous Waste Release**

*VENTURA, California* – District Attorney Erik Nasarenko announced that Karen Khosteghyan (DOB 04/05/85), of Van Nuys, pled guilty to felony automobile insurance fraud, felony release of hazardous waste, and hit and run driving.

On February 1, 2020, Khosteghyan was driving a truck in Oxnard that had an approximately 500-gallon diesel fuel tank in the bed of the truck. Khosteghyan was involved in a collision and fled the scene by driving the truck to Camarillo, where he abandoned it. As Khosteghyan fled the scene of the accident, fuel leaked from the tank in the truck bed onto the roadway from Oxnard to Camarillo, then continued leaking after it was abandoned. Investigators from the Ventura County Fire Department (VCFD) estimated that approximately 130 gallons of diesel fuel leaked from the damaged tank. When later contacted by the Oxnard Police Department (OXPD), Khosteghyan claimed his truck was stolen and he was not the person driving the truck when the accident occurred. Khosteghyan subsequently filed a claim on his auto insurance policy issued by Kemper Insurance Company (Kemper).

Investigation by the OXPd, the VCFD, Kemper and the District Attorney's Office Auto Insurance Fraud Unit revealed Khosteghyan was responsible for unlawfully causing the release of a hazardous substance onto a road, falsely claiming his truck was stolen, and making a false insurance claim.

Khosteghyan is scheduled to be sentenced on August 22, 2022, at 1:30 p.m. in courtroom 23 of the Ventura County Superior Court. Felony automobile insurance fraud is punishable by up to five years in county jail and a fine up to \$50,000, or double the amount of fraud, whichever is greater. The unlawful deposit of a hazardous substance on a roadway is punishable by up to three years in county jail and a fine of up to \$10,000.

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The Ventura County District Attorney's Office is the public prosecutor for the county's 850,000 residents. The office employs approximately 290 employees including attorneys, investigators, victim advocates, and professional support staff who strive to seek justice, ensure public safety, and protect the rights of crime victims.