



**ERIK NASARENKO**  
VENTURA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
**NEWS RELEASE**



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Contact: Joey Buttitta  
Title: Communications Manager/PIO  
Phone: (805) 767-3400  
Email: [Joey.Buttitta@venturacounty.gov](mailto:Joey.Buttitta@venturacounty.gov)

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## Los Angeles Man Charged in Series of Catalytic Converter Thefts

VENTURA Calif. – Ventura County District Attorney Erik Nasarenko announced today that Efran Esau Flores Alvarez (DOB 04/20/06), of Los Angeles, has been charged with nine felony counts of grand theft for allegedly participating in a series of catalytic converter thefts throughout Ventura County. Alvarez was arraigned in Ventura County Superior Court on May 21, 2026, and pled not guilty to all charges.

Alvarez is accused of committing nine separate catalytic converter thefts in Thousand Oaks and Simi Valley between March 20 and April 23 of this year. When he was arrested on May 19, 2026, investigators allegedly located a hand saw, impact drills, additional saw blades, and a floor jack in his vehicle. He also had more than \$5600 in cash. Investigators believe he may be connected to additional catalytic converter thefts throughout Ventura County. The investigation remains ongoing, and additional charges may be filed.

The case was investigated by the Ventura County Sheriff's Office and the Simi Valley Police Department. Senior Deputy District Attorney Brandon Ross, a member of the Ventura County District Attorney's Office General Trials Unit, is prosecuting the case.

Alvarez is scheduled for an early disposition conference on June 2, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. in courtroom 12. He remains in custody with bail set at \$75,000.

**Case: 2026013040**

**Defendant Information:**

Efran Esau Flores Alvarez (DOB 04/20/06)  
Los Angeles

**Charges:**

- (9 counts) PC 487(a) – Grand theft

**Special allegations:**

- CRC 4.421(a)(8) - The manner in which the crime was carried out indicates planning, sophistication, or professionalism