

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – THREE SUSPECTS APPREHENDED AFTER EARLY MORNING THEFTS

[Lancaster, Ohio, May 3, 2012] The Fairfield County Sheriff's Office has arrested three men in connection with an early morning theft of scrap metal from a Berne Township resident. Sheriff Dave Phalen stated shortly after 3:00 a.m. deputies responded to the 4000 block of Duffy Road on a report of a suspicious vehicle driving near a farm property where thefts have previously occurred. Upon the deputies arrival Deputy Donald Abram pulled into the driveway of the homeowner as a suspect vehicle was leaving. Deputy Abram attempted to stop the vehicle which then drove around him and out onto Duffy Road where it collided with Deputy John Williamson, a K-9 officer. The vehicle then went off the road into a ditch and the suspects were taken into custody. Deputies discovered several pieces of metal inside the vehicle.

Deputy Williamson was then checked and transported to Fairfield Medical Center for minor injuries. All three men in the vehicle were transported to Fairfield Medical Center to be checked for injuries. Deputy Williamson was later released, and the K-9 was not hurt in the crash.

Deputies have taken into custody John R. Gatwood, 38, of 325 Lake Road, Lancaster, David A. Gatwood, 31, of 1250 Lake Road, Lancaster, and Gregory A. Cremeans, 32, of 2495 Old Logan Road, Lancaster. Each has been charged with Breaking & Entering (F5), punishable by up to 12 months in prison and a \$2,500 maximum fine.