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**NEWS
RELEASE**

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Buyer Beware: Verify Before Purchasing

The Auto Theft Task Force (ATTF) is warning the public: stolen heavy equipment from rural and construction sites in California is making its way to our region with fraudulent VINs/PINs. Don't let a "deal" become a costly mistake. If you are purchasing used machinery, use this checklist before you hand over any money:

1. **Demand Documentation:** Ask for original dealer invoices or previous bills of sale. Ensure the names on these documents match the seller's identity.
2. **Verify the PIN:** The PIN (Product Identification Number) is the heavy equipment equivalent of a VIN. Ask for clear photos of the PIN plate and check for discrepancies with the equipment's load capacity, model, or serial number.
3. **Check Ownership & Liens:** Confirm the equipment is free of liens and legal encumbrances.
4. **Request Maintenance Records:** Legitimate equipment owners almost always have service/maintenance logs. A lack of these records is a red flag.
5. **Watch the Price:** If it's priced significantly below market value, it's likely a red flag.
6. **Run a Professional Check:**
 - Use [IRONcheck](#) to check for insurance claims, damage reports, lien checks, and PIN verification. It's a small investment that could save you thousands.
 - Use the [NICB VINCheck](#) to check for theft records at no cost.
 - Protect your livelihood. Do your homework before you buy. If you suspect an item has been tampered with or stolen, contact the ATTF immediately.



Good Governance
Leadership that is responsive + reliable

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