



**SANTA CRUZ POLICE DEPARTMENT**

155 Center Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**DATE/TIME:** October 9, 2013 - 1:30 PM    **LOCATION:** 128 Walk Circle

**TOPIC:** Butane Hash Oil Explosion    **CASE NUMBER:** 13S-08432

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**INFORMATION:**

For the second time in the last 10 days Santa Cruz Police and Fire responded to a report of an explosion at a residence. In both instances, the occupants were involved in the manufacture of butane hash oil or "BHO". BHO is a process that uses chemicals to extract concentrated THC from marijuana plants. The process is extremely dangerous due to the use of highly combustible butane.

Today's incident occurred at a home located at 128 Walk Circle. Witnesses reported a large explosion from inside the home. Witnesses also reported that a male occupant appeared to be badly burned and was seen driving away from the home.

Firefighters arrived to find the fire flames extinguished but the structure still smoking from the explosion. It appeared that the back-blast from the explosion actually worked to blow out the flames.

Officers were alerted that a burn victim had arrived at Dominican Hospital Emergency Room. Officers learned that the occupant started to drive himself to the hospital when he met his girlfriend and she drove him the rest of the way. The burn victim was eventually transported to a Bay Area burn center. He is currently in critical condition. The burn victim is a 29 year old resident of the home on Walk Circle.

Inside the home, Officers found two injured dogs that were badly singed from the blast. Officers also found a large quantity of marijuana and over a dozen butane canisters in the bathroom.

The blast originated from the bathroom, where both doors were completely blown off. The blast also blew out the front window of the home. The blast created an intensely hot fireball that caused the injuries to the male and animals in the home.

Detectives will continue to follow up on the investigation and appropriate criminal charges for the manufacture of illegal drugs in the home.

For additional information, contact: Deputy Chief Steve Clark

Phone: (831) 420-5815

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To Leave ANONYMOUS information regarding this incident, please call our TIP LINE (831) 420-5995 or use our mobile iPhone and Android App