



**SANTA CRUZ POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
155 Center Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

---



**DATE/TIME: May 20, 2014**

**LOCATION: 169 Walnut Avenue**

**TOPIC: Arrest for Chemical Attack**

**CASE NUMBER: 14S-03778**

---

### **INFORMATION:**

On the morning of May 13, 2014 a chemical attack on the Santa Cruz area Social Security Administration Office, (169 Walnut Avenue) was reported to the Santa Cruz Police Department.

The attack involved a person breaking the windows to the office and pouring a caustic chemical mixture of chlorine bleach and ammonia into the building. This combination produces an initial reaction of hydrochloric acid with a secondary reaction creating chloramine gas. Exposure to this mixture is potentially lethal.

Emergency medical crews responded to assist employees exposed to the gas and the building was evacuated.

Our investigation led to the identification of the suspect as:

#### **Joseph Anton Loris – 70 years old, Transient**

This morning (May 20, 2014), Detectives located and arrested Mr. Loris at approximately 11:00 AM. He was arrested near the intersection of Riverside Avenue and Third Street in Santa Cruz.

Mr. Loris was interviewed by detectives where he went on an anti-government rant, but fell short of confessing to the crime.

Detectives used images from video evidence to help identify Mr. Loris as the suspect in this case. Because the attack involved a Federal facility, Detectives worked closely with the FBI and the Assistant U.S. Attorney's Office during the investigation.

Mr. Loris was booked into Santa Cruz County Jail on charges of (1) Burglary, (2) Assault with a Deadly Weapon, and (3) Felony Vandalism. Mr. Loris' previous contact with the police department consists mostly of traffic violations.

Suspect booking photos as well as scene and surveillance images are attached.

**For additional information, contact: Deputy Chief Steve Clark**

**Phone: (831) 420-5815**

---

Anonymous tips can also be sent to the police department through our Tip Line (831) 420-5995, or from our Website; [www.santacruzpolice.com](http://www.santacruzpolice.com). Tipsters can also submit an anonymous tip via our smartphone app or from an SMS text. Visit our Website for instructions.

**Booking Photos**



Surveillance Photos



Scene Photo

