



GROVER BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS RELEASE

Search Warrant Recovers over 100 Marijuana Plants and an Explosive Device

DATE/TIME: June 25, 2009 / 2:28 p.m.
LOCATION: 31 Ocean View Ave
SUSPECT: William W. Halstead, 44, Grover Beach

A joint narcotics investigation by the Grover Beach Police Department and the San Luis Obispo County Narcotics Task Force culminated in the service of a narcotics search warrant at the residential address of 31 Ocean View Ave on Thursday afternoon.

During the execution of the search warrant, investigators located over 100 marijuana plants growing inside the residence in a sophisticated hydroponic growing operation. Investigators also located evidence of the manufacturing of hashish and sales of the drugs by the resident, William W. Halstead. Further investigation revealed Mr. Halstead was venting the exhaust fumes from the Marijuana growing operation into a common area attic that was attached to an adjacent residence. This illegal venting caused unbeknownst health problems for Mr. Halstead's neighbors. The neighbors, two adults and two children, had to be treated at the Arroyo Grande Community Hospital for their exposure.

The Grover Beach Fire Department and Building Inspectors were called to the scene and they conducted a Code Enforcement Investigation and Building Inspection of the both residences. The inspection revealed that both residences were uninhabitable therefore all occupants were required to leave the properties. Additionally, during a search of the backyard of the residence, a live 155 mm Howitzer military ordinance was found partially buried in the ground. The San Luis Obispo County Bomb Squad was called to the scene where they removed the device to a nearby military installation for further inspection.

This case will be forwarded to the San Luis Obispo County District Attorney for prosecution on charges related to Cultivation of Marijuana, Manufacturing of Narcotics, Sales of Narcotics, Felony Child Endangerment and Possession of an Explosive Device. The Grover Beach Police Department asks that anyone with information regarding this case to contact Detective Juan Leon at (805) 473-4502. Anyone wishing to remain anonymous can call San Luis Obispo County CrimeStoppers at (800) 549-7867.

Officer Completing Release:
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