



# MEDIA RELEASE

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## SANTA CRUZ COUNTY Sheriff-Coroner

5200 Soquel Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95062  
(831) 454-7611 FAX: (831) 454-7608

**Jim Hart**  
Sheriff-Coroner

## Fire Averted After Butane Honey Oil Lab Found

**DATE / TIME:** 8/7/18 at 1130 PM **CASE #:** 18-06709

**LOCATION:** 1000 Block of Cathedral Drive, Aptos, CA 95003

**TYPE OF CRIME:** 11379.6 PC Manufacturing a Controlled Substance **Felony**

### **SUSPECTS:**

25-year-old Male, Aptos Resident  
24-year-old Male, Aptos Resident

### **DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT:**

On 8/7/18, Deputies responded to a property near the 1000 block of Cathedral Drive in Aptos for a suspicious vehicle being loaded with bags containing a large amount of Marijuana. Deputies arrived and found butane canisters, loose leaf Marijuana, and a large amount of Butane Honey Oil.

Deputies remained at the property as detectives obtained a search warrant. On 8/8/18, Detectives served the search warrant at the property and located an extensive Butane Honey Oil operation in a pop-up garage on the property. The lab contained about 3,000 lbs. of loose marijuana, 25 lbs. of processed Butane Honey Oil, 8 firearms, ammunition, gun parts, and cash. The estimated cost of the equipment located in the garage was approximately \$40,000 dollars. This is one of the largest labs the Sheriff's Office has investigated in the past few years.

Due to the fire hazard of dismantling the lab, the Sheriff's Office contacted Environmental Health and a highly trained private company to safely dismantle this large operation. The company was able to safely dismantle the lab limiting the risk of a fire or explosion.

The investigation is ongoing, and the Sheriff's Office was able to identify two suspects running this operation.

Sheriff Jim Hart said, "This was a dangerous drug lab that was set up in a residential neighborhood in a heavily wooded area. I am appreciative of the alert community member who called this in and for the quick response from my deputy sheriffs. We all have to be vigilant to protect our neighborhoods from the hazards this kind of lab can cause."

### **PREPARED BY:**

Sergeant Brian Cleveland

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