



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

MEDIA RELEASE



DATE/TIME: 07/05/14 1300

LOCATION: City of Santa Cruz

TOPIC: 4th of July Police Activity

CASE NUMBER: N/A

INFORMATION:

This 4th of July brought one of the largest crowds in recent history to the Main Beach and the city. All parking lots and off-site parking lots were completely full by noon. Traffic was still gridlocked coming into town as late as 8 PM. All available resources were in service and used by the Police Department. Officers responded to about 500 calls for service in the 24 hours of the 4th of July, of which, 103 were fireworks related. Officers confiscated approximately 75 lbs of Fireworks during the evening hours of the 4th. Officers made 4 felony arrests, 18 misdemeanor arrests, and issued 64 citations, of which 28 included the triple fine enhancement.

At 9:45 PM, officers responded to a fire in the 200 block of 1st Ave that was started by an air burst style firework that was set off in a tree. The tree immediately caught fire and threatened a power pole that was next to the tree. Several power and phone lines were immediately compromised by the fire and fell onto the roadway. The Fire Department was unable to safely combat the fire until the power lines were shut off by the power company. Unfortunately, there was a significant delayed response by the power company and efforts to combat the fire were delayed by over an hour by this delayed response. Three vehicles beneath the tree caught fire and were completely consumed by the fire. The vehicles were a total loss. Most of the 200 block of 2nd Ave was evacuated as well as portions of 3rd Ave.

During the initial response to the fire, officers had to contain and control a large crowd that had formed in the intersection of Atlantic Ave and 1st Ave. While officers were attempting to keep the intersection clear for the Fire Department a subject threw another airburst style firework at the feet of officers in the intersection. Five officers were immediately affected by the ensuing explosion that was within 5 to 7 yards of the officers. Fortunately, no officers were struck by the firework as it burst beneath the rear end of parked police car. Although the officers were not injured by starburst of the firework, five officers did have immediate partial hearing loss as a result of the percussion of the device and had hearing issues for the remainder of the evening.

Thankfully, witnesses in the crowd identified the subject who threw the projectile at the officers. Nathan Hansel (20 Yrs old) of Ben Lomond was arrested for Felony Assault on a Police Officer. See attached photo.

Unfortunately, while the Fire Department was attempting to combat the fire, the tenants of an apartment complex in the 100 block of 1st Ave at Seabright Ave continued to light airburst style fireworks from their interior courtyard. Officers were unable to contact the tenants because they had chained closed and locked the two exterior gates into the courtyard. Firefighters were eventually able to contact the occupants and encouraged them to stop the fireworks. The Police Department will follow up with the Property Owner to address the amplified music and illegal fireworks that the tenants felt were appropriate for the neighborhood.

In addition, see attached photos of confiscated fireworks and photograph of burned vehicle (sorry very grainy photograph, better photographs were taken but are inaccessible at this time).

Additional Press release will be forth coming regarding a violent domestic battery arrest and the arrest of two stabbing suspects.

For additional information, contact: Lt. Dan Flippo #103

Phone: (831) 420-5856

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





