



SANTA CRUZ POLICE DEPARTMENT

155 Center Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

MEDIA RELEASE



DATE/TIME: Monday April 13, 2015/ 2:20 a.m. **LOCATION:** 200 Block of Linden St.

TOPIC: Manufacturing Hash Oil Lab **CASE NUMBER:** 15S-03086

INFORMATION:

On Monday April 13, 2015 at approximately 2:20 a.m. the Santa Cruz Police Department responded to the report of a domestic violence incident at a residence in the 200 block of Linden St. During the course of the investigation, officers uncovered a hash oil lab in one of the rooms of the residence. The Santa Cruz Fire Department responded to make the lab safe. The Santa Cruz Police Detectives authored a search warrant for the residence and uncovered a significant hash oil lab that was manufacturing thousands of dollars of hash oil.

Santa Cruz Police Detectives seized approximately 1,232 grams of processed hash oil which has an estimated street level value of \$25,000-\$62,000, approximately 246 pounds of marijuana with a street level value of \$123,000, and over \$7,000 in cash.

Both suspects that were responsible for the hash oil lab and residence at the home were arrested and booked on multiple charges. The charges included domestic violence and assault with a deadly weapon that originated from the initial call to the police. Additional charges were added to both suspects that included possession of marijuana/hash for sale, manufacturing a controlled substance for sale, and conspiracy.

Suspect #1: Christopher Kite, 36 year old, Santa Cruz resident. (photo below)

Suspect #2: Sarah Theden, 30 year old, Santa Cruz resident. (photo below)

As demonstrated by previous incidents in the City of Santa Cruz, these hash oil labs are extremely dangerous and can be very explosive. These labs create a significant safety hazard not only to the residents of the labs, but to the neighbors as well. The butane gas used to extract the oils from the marijuana is odorless, colorless, and extremely flammable. All the butane gas needs is one small source of ignition to cause a fire or explosion. This is why this process is very dangerous.

For additional information, contact: Lieutenant Bernie Escalante

Phone: (831) 420-5823

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.







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