



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



DATE/TIME: October 7, 2021

LOCATION: 300 block of La Fonda

TOPIC: Suspect Identified in Explosion Case

CASE NUMBER: 21S-06020

INFORMATION:

Santa Cruz Police Department identified the person responsible for the explosion device through witness statements and video surveillance obtained from Santa Cruz City Schools. On October 7, 2021, Detectives tracked down and detained the suspect in Scotts Valley. The 50-year-old male suspect admitted to detectives that he modified and ignited an industrial-grade pyrotechnic device.

On Saturday, October 2, 2021, the male suspect altered the mechanism design for a commercial firework, which he placed into the chain-link fencing on the 300 Block of La Fonda. The man was at that location for a non-school sporting event that had nothing to do with Harbor High. An independent sports jamboree was utilizing the school fields when the detonation occurred at approximately 6:51 pm.

The suspect claimed he ignited the device in a celebratory action and thought the rigged firework would detonate in the air. Instead, the explosion occurred on the ground, thundered throughout the surrounding neighborhoods, and was heard for miles.

Detectives have determined there are no additional involved suspects, and there are no other explosives at the suspect's residence. Santa Cruz Police will continue to coordinate with the District Attorney's Office for potential criminal charges related to the incident.

Based on the information gathered through the investigation, SCPD does not believe the safety of students at Harbor High School is at risk. Harbor High School was not the target of nefarious intent. The safety of our community is our highest priority. The Santa Cruz Police Department will continue to work diligently to maintain the safety of our community and will investigate all threats. SCPD is grateful for the assistance and support provided by community members, Harbor High, and Santa Cruz City Schools administration.

This case underscores the importance of the working relationship and full cooperation between Santa Cruz City Schools and the Santa Cruz Police Department.

For additional information, contact: Joyce Blaschke

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Anonymous tips can also be sent to the police department through our Tip Line (831) 420-5995, or visit www.santacruzpolice.com .