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# Media Release



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Chief of Police

Date: August 18, 2011

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## **PIPE BOMB INVESTIGATION 5300 BLOCK OF EAST SPEEDWAY BOULEVARD**

On August 17, 2011 at approximately 2:20 a.m., the Tucson Police Department received a 911 call of an explosion heard in the area of the 5300 block of East 1<sup>st</sup> Street. Officers from Operations Division Midtown responded to the area and began to search for the origin of the explosion. Officers initially located pieces of debris or shrapnel in the area of an assisted living facility in the 5300 block of East 1<sup>st</sup> Street and the roadway near the 5300 block of East 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. Officers eventually located the scene of the blast near a doorway to a business in the 5300 block of East Speedway Boulevard.

Personnel assigned as Hazardous Devices Technicians from the Tucson Police Department's Explosives and Hazardous Devices Detail and detectives from the Arson Unit responded to the scene and conducted a thorough post-blast investigation. During the investigation, a piece of shrapnel was found to have penetrated the window of an occupied bedroom of the assisted living facility. The resident narrowly avoided being struck, however, and there were no reported injuries. The investigation included the collection of evidence to include the initially located shrapnel and debris, as well as evidence from immediate area of the blast.

While the investigation is still in its early stages, the initial analysis of the blast site and the evidence indicates that the cause of the blast was a pipe bomb-type device. The force of the blast was significant, and sent shrapnel a considerable distance from the blast site. The evidence is being forensically analyzed to determine the composition of the explosive material used, as well as to collect any trace evidence left by the suspect or suspects.

The motive for this crime is unknown at this time, and although detectives are not ruling out any possibilities, initial investigation indicates that this device was likely placed with an intent and purpose other than causing physical injury. The Tucson Police Department is diligently working to identify the perpetrators in this case.

At this time, the Tucson Police Department is seeking public assistance in identifying the suspect or suspects responsible for designing, constructing, and detonating this device, and urges anyone who has any information to call **911** or **88-CRIME**.

For accommodations; materials in accessible formats; foreign language interpreters; and/or materials in a language other than English, please contact the Tucson Police Department Public Information Office at (520) 791-4852 or (520) 791-2639 for TDD at least five (5) business days in advance. Para arreglos; materiales en formatos accesibles; interpretes de idioma extranjero; y/o materiales en otro idioma que no sea inglés, por favor comunicarse al Departamento de la Policía de Tucson a la sección de Información Pública al (520) 791-4852 o (520) 791-2639 para TDD por lo menos con cinco (5) días hábiles de anticipación.