



Ready to Protect, Proud to Serve

Phone: 520-791-4852

Fax: 520-791-4433

270 S. Stone Avenue

Tucson, Arizona 85701-1917

<http://www.tucsonaz.gov/police>

On-call PIO: tucsonpdpio@gmail.com

Media Release



Roberto A. Villaseñor

Chief of Police

Date: July 15, 2011

Contact: Sgt. Matt Ronstadt

SUSPICIOUS USE OF CHEMICALS 2600 BLOCK OF EAST ADAMS STREET

On July 11, 2011, Tucson Police Department officers from Operations Division South responded to a report of a burn patient at University Physicians Hospital. Officers located a 34-year old male suffering from apparent burn injuries and determined that the incident occurred at his residence in the 2600 block of East Adams Street. The victim was suffering from possibly life-threatening injuries and was transferred to a regional burn center. Information was received that a smoldering fire may have been left inside the residence. Officers and Tucson Fire Department personnel responded to the residence and forced entry to ensure the fire was extinguished and no longer posed a threat to life or property. No active fire was found, however, evidence of a small explosion and fire was found. Additionally, a large quantity of unidentified chemicals and assorted chemistry equipment was found in the area of the explosion/fire.

Members of the Tucson Police Department's Explosives and Hazardous Devices Detail (EHDD) and the Arson Unit responded to continue the investigation. Based on the circumstances at the scene and information developed during the initial response, a search warrant was obtained for the residence. Members of the EHDD, equipped with specialized protective equipment and assisted by the Tucson Fire Department's Hazardous Materials Control Team, entered the residence to conduct a preliminary assessment of the extent of the threat posed by the scene. A Special Agent from the Tucson FBI office responded to assist. Based on the initial assessment, the scene was guarded overnight until additional personnel could be brought in to assist with the investigation and the collection of evidence.

On July 12, 2011, EHDD personnel began the process of removing chemicals from the residence into a staging area for temporary storage. This process took much of the day. Samples of chemicals were taken for preliminary testing and were provided to both the Tucson Fire Department Hazardous Materials Control Team and the Pima County Sheriffs Department Bomb Squad. The scene was again guarded overnight.

On July 13, 2011, the investigation at the residence continued. Local resources were augmented by a contingent of FBI personnel who arrived to assist in the investigation and collection of evidence.

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.

On July 14, 2011, all of the remaining chemical compounds were collected, containerized, and removed for safe disposal. The area was cleaned of residual chemicals and was released back to a family member of the resident.

As of July 15, 2011, the victim is expected to survive and his status has been upgraded to "stable". No criminal charges have been filed at this time as the investigation is ongoing and chemical analysis is still pending. Detectives are in the process of evaluating the evidence that has been recovered to date and continue to work on this case.

Additional information will be released as it becomes available.

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.