



San Diego County Sheriff's Department

PUBLIC AFFAIRS UNIT

*"Keeping
the peace
since 1850"*

On Thursday, November 18, 2010 at 12:53 p.m., a landscape worker was hurt in some type of explosion at 1954 Via Scott in unincorporated Escondido. Escondido Fire Department requested a law enforcement response. Deputy Sheriffs arrived and determined the area was a possible crime scene and appropriate security measures were begun.

The resident of the home was detained by uniformed personnel while the cause of the explosion was investigated. The Sheriff's Bomb Arson Detail arrived, assessed the scene and immediately requested County HazMat crews to respond. Evacuations were ordered of adjacent residences while the Bomb Arson investigators began their investigation.

In the course of the investigation more than nine pounds of HMTD (Hexamethylene triperoxide diamine) was discovered and secured. Many additional solvents, acids and precursors to explosives were also located. Due to the high quantity of hazardous materials, including some unidentifiable materials the danger to Sheriff's personnel was so great that recovery of additional evidence was deemed an unreasonable risk and the recovery efforts were halted.

Explosive and hazardous materials remain inside the house. While the risks cannot be eliminated, our goal is to reduce the risks by using the best practices available. Local State and Federal subject matter experts are being consulted to assure every effort is made to mitigate this highly unusual and extremely dangerous situation.

All agencies are working together in a deliberate and cautious manner consistent with our concern for public safety and environmental protection.

We anticipate it will be necessary to destroy the structure by fire. This will require some time for preparation of the structure to assure a safe destruction.

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