



Ceres Department of Public Safety

Art de Werk, Chief/Acting City Manager/Director of Public Safety



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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
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Burglary Leads to Discovery of Marijuana Grow

Ceres, California - On 08-18-2011 at 12 :27 AM, Ceres Police Officers responded to a residence in the 3800 block of Granite Falls for a report of someone inside a vacant residence. As Officers arrived, they determined the house was actually inhabited and in the process of being burglarized.

Two males ran fled through the back of the house in an attempt to elude the officers. One of the two individuals was apprehended by Officer Brian Albonetti after a short foot chase. This 17 year old burglar (name not released due to his age) was in possession of a pillow case filled with stolen property. Among the items recovered were two handguns and a Sony Playstation. The second subject escaped the officers and is still at large.

As this was occurring, other officers conducted a protective sweep of the home to check on the welfare of any residents that may have been present and look for any additional burglars. During this sweep, officers discovered a very large, sophisticated Marijuana grow operation. They did not find anyone inside the home.

The Ceres Police Street Crimes Unit obtained a search warrant and discovered 256 plants, ranging from six inches to four feet tall and several weapons (investigators are not releasing specifics on the weapons at this time). The residence was a rental and investigators are not releasing the name on the lease, since the investigation is ongoing. Neighbors had reported seeing people come and go from the house continuously.

Investigators have discovered several indoor grows in Ceres homes throughout the year. In most cases, including this one, power was stolen to support the operation, bypassing detection of their excessive power usage. In these cases, power is turned off until repairs are made to the home, which requires a building permit and a licensed contractor to properly complete the repairs. These costs are normally the landlord or the insurance agency's responsibility.

Each individual case is different and how they are handled varies according to the circumstances. Investigators have found that several cases fall under the “Medical Marijuana Umbrella.” If this is found to be the case, the investigators ensure the Medical Marijuana growers are abiding by the law appropriately.

This case is still under investigation and no further details will be released at this time. For further questions or if you have any information on this case, please contact:

Patrick Sullivan, Sergeant
Ceres Police Department
Street Crimes Unit (SCU)/Gangs & Habitual Offenders Suppression Team (GHOST)
(209) 538-5638

For anonymous tips:

Stanislaus Area Crime Stoppers.

Phone number: 1-866-60-CRIME

Text Tips: “274637” TIP704 in the wording

Website: www.modestopolice.com/crimestoppers