



Siskiyou County Sheriff's Office

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News Release

For Immediate Release:

SHERIFF-DISTRICT ATTORNEY TEAM SEIZE DRUG LAB & FIREARMS

July 2, 2018

On Friday, June 29, 2018 the Siskiyou Interagency Marijuana Investigation Team (SIMIT), a combined team made-up of Siskiyou County Sheriff's Office (SCSO) and Siskiyou County District Attorney (SCDA) detectives, served search warrants in the Mount Shasta area and a separate location in the Mt. Shasta Vista area, seizing a cannabis drug lab, marijuana products, and firearms.

SIMIT served a search warrant in the 200 block of Cricket Road in Mt. Shasta, which resulted in the seizure of a concentrated cannabis lab, commonly referred to as a "Honey Oil Lab," a highly-concentrated form of marijuana. These labs often use volatile chemicals to synthesize marijuana product, which makes them highly flammable and potentially explosive. At least two homes in Siskiyou County have been severely damaged by similar illicit drug operations. Sophisticated commercial "THC Extraction" lab equipment, utilizing CO2 (carbon dioxide), estimated to be worth \$400,000.00 to \$500,000.00 was seized during the operation. THC is the active ingredient in marijuana that provides the psycho-active effect or "high" sought after by most marijuana users. About 19+ pounds of marijuana in various forms was also seized during the operation. 449 ounces of concentrated cannabis and 116 electronic cigarette cartridges were also seized. Three suspects were arrested at the scene for manufacturing a controlled substance, a felony violation of the Health and Safety Code.

SIMIT served two additional search warrants at property parcels located in Mt. Shasta Vista's Juniper Terrace area. Four separate marijuana cultivation sites were located at these two sites and 337 illicit marijuana plants were seized in the operation. Two loaded firearms, a rifle and handgun, were also located at one of the sites. One arrest was made during the search warrant operation. County Planning Department code enforcement officers also accompanied SIMIT on the raid and various county ordinance violations were detected and nuisance abatement processes initiated.

According to Sheriff Jon Lopey, “SIMIT did a good job eradicating a dangerous concentrated or “honey oil” illicit lab operation and the team seized a significant amount of illicit drug products, expensive equipment, and firearms during these successful operations. Four arrests were also made, illustrating the fact that illicit drug trafficking and related crimes will not be tolerated in Siskiyou County. Siskiyou County does not allow any outdoor cultivation of marijuana in county areas and all marijuana consumers are limited to 12 plants in an approved indoor structure, pursuant to law. The concentrated cannabis production operation was a major one and the equipment seized indicates a large-scale illicit drug operation was terminated, making our children, families, and communities safer.”

Siskiyou County has received additional support from federal and state authorities for this marijuana enforcement season and many more counter-drug operations are planned in the near future. We are also focusing additional attention on environmental crimes associated with illicit marijuana cultivation in cooperation with the Siskiyou County Agricultural Commissioner, California Department of Fish & Wildlife, and our regional water boards.

These criminal investigations are still underway and anyone with additional information about these incidents or related drug crimes are urged to contact the SCSO’s 24-Hour Dispatch Center at (530) 841-2900.