



Police Department Press Release

Eureka Police Department
604 C Street
Eureka, CA 95501

Phone: (707) 441-4060
FAX: (707) 441-4334

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Subject : Homeless Man Found Deceased in Tent

Contact : Detective Terry Liles (707) 441-4032 / tliles@ci.eureka.ca.gov

On February 14, 2009 at about 10:22 A.M., the Eureka Police Department responded to the report of a man who appeared to be burned to death in a camp site at the foot of West Del Norte Street in Eureka. The Eureka Fire Department initially responded to the scene because the body was discovered by a man out for his morning walk. Once on-scene EFD was able to see the man was clearly deceased. The EFD remained on-scene to provide valuable assistance in determining the possible cause of the fire.

Detectives and an Assistance Evidence Technician responded to the scene to take over the investigation. It was immediately apparent the man had been in a tent when the fire started as the tent and items in the tent were burned. Investigators located a kerosene lamp inside the tent that was believed to be the source of the fire. The Humboldt County Coroner's Office responded to take possession of the body. At this time we are withholding the believed identity of the victim until the Coroner's Office can confirm his identity and notify his next-of-kin. The cause of death, although unknown at this time, is believed to be associated with the fire. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

The EPD would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone of the dangers of using an open flame inside a tent. Because of the materials used to make tents they are very flammable. It is recommended that persons use flashlights or other battery operated light sources when camping outdoors.

Reference case# 3C10-1315

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