



# Eureka Police Department

## PRESS RELEASE

---

### **Eureka Police Department**

604 C Street  
Eureka, CA 95501  
Phone: (707) 441-4060  
FAX: (707) 441-4334

4/19/2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Subject: Busy Sunday Afternoon for EPD: Officers Seize Large Amount of Suspected Methamphetamine at Local Hotel, Two Felons in Possession of a Loaded Firearm Arrested, and Occupied Stolen Vehicle Recovered.**

**Contact:** Detective Terry Liles

- Front Desk (707) 441-4060
- Office (707) 441-4032

On 4/18/10, at about 12:46 PM, officers with the Eureka Police Department responded to the American Best Value Inn for a complaint the tenant was refusing to check out. The subject refused to answer the door. Officers entered the room with a room key and found Darrel Tuitele (age 46) of La Puente, California pretending to be sleeping on the bed. Officers located approximately 135 grams or 4.7 ounces of crystal methamphetamine in a sock on the dresser. They also located a digital scale and pipe used for smoking controlled substances. Tuitele was subsequently booked at the Humboldt County Correctional facility for possession of a controlled substance, possession of controlled substance for sale, possession of drug paraphernalia, and unlawful lodging.

At about 2:31 PM, a different officer with the Eureka Police Department was on patrol when he saw a group of subjects he recognized from prior police contacts. The officer saw two of the subjects handling a handgun. The officer quickly recognized this as a violation of their parole. The officer contacted them and directed them to lay on the ground. They complied and were detained in handcuffs without incident. The firearm was a loaded Hi Point .380 caliber handgun. Gordon Dale Briggs Jr (age 30) of Sacramento and Anthony Duane Craig (age 37) of Eureka were subsequently taken into custody for being felons in possession of a loaded firearm. They were later booked at the Humboldt County Correctional facility with Briggs also being booked on a parole hold since he is a parolee visiting our area from Sacramento. It should be noted the Eureka Police Department has seen a steady increase of felons in possession of loaded firearms in recent months.

At about 2:43 PM, yet another patrol officer with the Eureka Police Department was on patrol when she saw a stolen vehicle being driven in a reckless manner on Del Norte Street at "D" Street. The vehicle attempted to evade her, but parked in a parking lot where the driver was contacted exiting the vehicle. He was quickly detained in handcuffs without incident. The driver of the stolen vehicle was identified as Jeremiah Wilkenson (age 29) of Eureka. The officer's subsequent investigation led her to find credit cards belonging to the victim of another stolen vehicle in Wilkenson's pocket. The vehicle was returned to the owner, and Wilkenson was booked into the Humboldt County Correctional facility for possession of stolen property.

###