



HUMBOLDT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

826 Fourth Street, Eureka CA 95501
(707) 445-7251

Date: June 2, 2010

From: Lt. Dave Morey

Subject: Suspicious Fire, Potential Arson
+ Update #1

Case: 201003728

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UPDATE

June 3, 2010 at 7:38 AM: The investigation of this fire continued through the late hours of June 2, 2010. Sheriff's Deputies sought and were granted a search warrant for the residence at 1964 Cypress Court, McKinleyville. With the authority of the search warrant a joint investigation between the Humboldt County Arson Task Force, Arcata Fire Department and the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office determined the cause of the fire at this residence to be an Arson, with multiple 'fire sets' located inside and outside the residence.

The marijuana grow was determined to be compliant with 215 laws and posted with valid medical recommendations with approximately 40 growing marijuana plants being grown. The motive for the Arson is not known but a suspect has been identified. The resident and non-owner of the home is believed to be **Stephen Robert Thompson** (36, WMA, 08-13-1973). Thompson was taken into custody on June 2, 2010 at 6:00 PM and transported to the Humboldt County Correctional Facility, where he was booked on suspicion PC 451(b), Arson.

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On June 2, 2010 at 2:19 PM Cal Fire received a 911 call from a resident on Holly Drive, McKinleyville. The caller reported seeing smoke coming from a residence at 1964 Cypress Court, McKinleyville.

Arcata Fire responded to the residence where they found the interior of the residence in flames with large amounts of smoke visible. The Arcata Fire Department was able to extinguish the fire and in doing so, located an indoor marijuana cultivation.

Further investigation determined that the cause of the fire was highly suspicious and possibly the result of Arson. At the time of this release, members of the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office, Arcata Fire Department and the Humboldt County Arson Task Force are on scene and investigating the exact origin and cause of the fire.

The approximate 1,200 square foot single story residence has suffered significant fire and subsequent water damage. There was no one reported to be in the residence at the time of the fire and there are no injuries reported. The exact number of marijuana plants being grown at the residence is undetermined at this time or if it was a compliant 215 grow. This information will be discovered as the investigation continues.

The owners and or occupants of the residence is yet to be determined and if the fire is determined to be an Arson, suspects are unknown at the time of this release.

Update to follow as information becomes available.

Gary Philp
Sheriff