

Authorities: Marijuana oil extraction causes Victorville house fire

By Anneli Fogt

VVDailyPress.com | Jul. 17, 2015

VICTORVILLE — San Bernardino County Sheriff's deputies told the Daily Press Friday morning that a marijuana oil extraction operation caused a house fire that burned the home's backyard, porch and attic.

Firefighters from the San Bernardino County Fire Department said that dispatchers received "multiple reports" of a fire and explosions at around 9:15 a.m. Friday at the home in the 15000 block of Luna Road. Witnesses also reportedly told dispatchers that thick black smoke was coming from the back of the house.

"A butane canister flew into my yard, right past my face — it barely missed me," neighbor Mac Shore told the Daily Press. "It sounded like a war zone for a little bit there. That first explosion was really loud."

County Fire officials said personnel arrived on scene in seven minutes and found "moderate smoke" coming from the backyard and attic. Two fire engines, a firetruck, a battalion chief and an investigator worked the scene. After a preliminary search of the residence, authorities determined no one was inside and firefighters attacked the flames, extinguishing them in roughly 20 minutes. The fire destroyed the home's back patio and part of the house's back wall and attic, authorities said.

As firefighters mopped up and County Fire investigators took to the scene, Sheriff's deputies carried four small marijuana plants out of the home. Deputies later said the fire was caused by a marijuana oil extraction operation in the home.

"The butane had the glass tubes shooting up like rockets," deputy Antonio Acosta said. "It explains the explosions (with) the butane canisters flying everywhere."

Authorities remained at the scene at 10:20 a.m., but County Fire firefighters said the scene would be wrapped up "within the hour."

No injuries were reported.