



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

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PRESS RELEASE

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BUTANE LAB DISMANTLED

In an ongoing effort to reduce risk to the public, Sheriff's Office personnel assigned to the Cannabis Licensing Office have dismantled an illicit butane honey, arresting two individuals on criminal charges for illegally manufacturing hash oil.

On Tuesday, Sheriff's Office personnel served a search warrant in the 600 block of Hartman Creek Road in Boulder Creek as part of an investigation into a possible unlicensed indoor cannabis cultivation operation. Detectives discovered a sophisticated butane honey oil lab inside a specially built outbuilding, along with 28 large volatile butane canisters, 1759 pounds of cannabis plant material and 136 pounds of cannabis concentrate. The cannabis concentrate was valued at more than \$2 million.

Christopher Akers, 34, of Oregon, and Michael Akers, 43, of Washington, were arrested and booked into the Santa Cruz County Jail.

Santa Cruz County Environmental Health mitigated the hazards on site and coordinated site cleanup and remediation. The highly flammable, explosive butane hash oil lab was located in rural Boulder Creek and posed a significant safety risk to residents in the area.

Butane hash oil is a cannabis concentrate that is produced through extraction of cannabinoids and terpenes from cannabis by using butane, heat and pressure. Since butane is a highly flammable gas, the extraction process is dangerous and non-regulated BHO labs pose a significant risk to public safety.