

03-12-10 Milwaukie Police Department Bob Jordan, Chief of Police Officer Ulli Neitch, PIO 503-545-3933 Case # 10-0980

Update on suspicious items found in 54th Place Milwaukie home.

On 02-11-10 during a contact at a home in the 11000 block of SE 54th Place in Milwaukie, Milwaukie Police officers were alerted at finding jars filled with unidentified liquid chemicals. In addition to the jars of liquid chemicals, illegal fireworks, and other dry chemicals were also found inside the house.

The Portland Police EDU (Explosives Disposal Unit) was called to assist in the investigation.

As a precaution, residents (approximately 15 homes) were evacuated, and streets in the area were closed to vehicular traffic.

During this investigation, two adult males inside the residence were arrested for probation violations.

The various chemicals were evaluated by explosives experts from the Portland Police Bureau. It was determined that each chemical by itself is legal to purchase and possess. The chemicals could, however, be dangerous if combined.

Given what was observed by police officers on-scene, complaints from neighbors about previous loud explosions coming from the backyard of the residence, and having 2 individuals in the residence on parole/probation, (some of those crimes related to illegal drugs), the incident required careful investigation.

Chief Bob Jordan said, "In our post '9-11' environment, and with incidents of domestic terrorism, the Milwaukie Police thoroughly investigate suspicious activities. To protect our community, it is better to be safe, than sorry."

This case is under continued investigation.

###