



**PRESS RELEASE**

Pursuant to Cal Govt. Code sect 6254(f)  
Gilroy Police Department  
Press Information Office  
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**Type of Crime: Illegal Indoor Marijuana Cultivation**

**Case #: 11-3248**

**Location:** 7700 block of Laurel Drive, Gilroy

**Date:** 07/29/11

Suspect #1) Chavez, Veronica, 39 year old Gilroy resident

**Time:** 2002 hours

Suspect #2) Chavez, Alicia, 60 year old Gilroy Resident

Suspect #3) Fonseca, Manuel, 26 year old Gilroy Resident

**Details:**

On July 29, 2011, the Gilroy Fire Department received a 9-1-1 call regarding an active electrical fire at a residence in the 7700 block of Laurel Drive, Gilroy.

During the Gilroy Fire Department investigation, fire department personnel located multiple marijuana plants within the residence while attempting to extinguish the fire. With the assistance of PG&E, they confirmed that someone had tampered with residence's electrical power.

Gilroy Police Officers obtained a search warrant for the residence from a Santa Clara County Superior Court Judge. Pursuant to the search warrant - officers seized over 40 mature marijuana plants (with an estimated street value of over \$100,000), firearms, a 1/4 pound of processed marijuana and marijuana sales paraphernalia.

Veronica Chavez, Alicia Chavez and Manuel Fonseca were detained during the investigation. They were later booked into the Santa Clara County Main Jail for a violation of HS 11358 – Cultivation of Marijuana, HS 11359 – Sales of Marijuana and PC 182(a) – Criminal Conspiracy.

This type of indoor marijuana operation appears to be an increasing trend within the county. Community members should be aware of activity within their neighborhoods, to prevent the fire dangers and potential health hazards associated with indoor marijuana cultivation operations.

This investigation is continuing and anyone who has information regarding this incident is urged to contact the Corporal Brian Dutton at (408) 846-0350. Parties wishing to remain anonymous may call WeTip at 1-800-782-7463 (1-800-78-Crime).

For any media inquiries please call (408) 846-0347.

**\*End of Media Release\***

By: Sgt. Gallacinao  
DATE: August 1, 2011





