



SANTA CRUZ POLICE DEPARTMENT

155 Center Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

www.santacruzpolice.com

MEDIA RELEASE

DATE/TIME: August 2nd, 2008 at 5:43 AM

LOCATION: West side of Santa Cruz

TOPIC: Attempted Homicide – Firebombing

CASE NUMBER: 08S-06911

INVOLVED SUBJECTS:

Unknown Number of Suspects

Arrested: [] Yes [X] No

Charges: 664/187(A) PC

VICTIM(S):

4 Santa Cruz residents

INFORMATION:

In the days since the firebombing attack on a home on Saturday, Santa Cruz Police have been assisting the FBI and ATF in the investigation, collecting forensic evidence, interviewing witnesses and following all possible leads.

“These terrorist actions were not just an offense against these two families but were also against our community as a whole,” said Santa Cruz Mayor Ryan Coonerty. “I urge all citizens to condemn the threats and violence as well as recognize the importance of academic inquiry free of intimidation.”

“This is an attack on this community. A family was attacked in the sanctity of their home,” said Santa Cruz Police Chief Howard Skerry. “We are not going to stop until we find those responsible.”

At this point, no one has claimed responsibility for this attack or for the attack on the university campus. A reward has been created in this case and has raised \$30,000 in contributions so far, including \$15,000 from the University, \$2,500 from the Humane Society of the United States and the remainder from community donors, the FBI, and the City. The Police Department is accepting donations to the Community Assistance Reward Fund (CARE Fund) and asks anyone in the community who is interested to go on our website at www.santacruzpolice.com.

BACKGROUND:

On August 2, 2008 at 5:43 AM, Santa Cruz Police Officers and Fire Department personnel responded to a report of a fire at a residence on the west side of Santa Cruz. Upon arrival, officers discovered that the residence had been intentionally firebombed. The home belonged to the family of a University of California – Santa Cruz researcher, and the family was home at the time. The address of the residence was one of those listed in the animal rights pamphlets found on July 29th (case 08S-06744). The victims, including two young children, escaped down a fire ladder from a second story window. Injuries were sustained by family members during the escape.

Santa Cruz Police investigators, the Federal Bureau of Investigations, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and UCSC Police conducted a joint initial investigation, collecting evidence at the scene and interviewing witnesses. The case has been designated an act of Domestic Terrorism and turned over to the FBI. This incident is being investigated in conjunction with a second incident which involved a vehicle that was firebombed on the UCSC campus at close to the same time (UCSC case 08-771). These incidents follow a string of attacks by suspected animal rights extremists dating back to an attempted firebombing of a police vehicle on March 31, 2007 (07S-3171).

Santa Cruz Police investigators urge anyone with information about this incident to please contact Santa Cruz Police Department Investigations at (831) 420-5820. To leave ANONYMOUS information regarding this incident, please call our TIP LINE at (831) 420-5995.

Press Contacts: Santa Cruz Police Captain Steve Clark
FBI Public Information Officer Joe Schadler

(831) 420-5847
(415) 553-7450