



## Humboldt Bay Fire News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Subject :** Hash Lab Explosion at 3863 D Street, Eureka

**Contact :** Sean Robertson, Battalion Chief, Humboldt Bay Fire

January 20, 2016

At 9:35pm on January 20<sup>th</sup> Humboldt Bay Fire was dispatched to an explosion at 3861 D Street. The initial dispatch included two duty Chiefs, a squad, two engines and a truck. The first arriving engine reported light grey smoke visible emanating from the rear of the house and significant structural damage. A male was also located who had suffered moderate burn injuries during the explosion.

The initial crews on scene stretched a hose line to the house and attacked the fire, and searched the primary residence to ensure all occupants were accounted for. A dog who was in the house was also located, with singed hair but no injuries. A neighbor took care of the dogs during the incident. The fire was confined to the rear of the kitchen area and was quickly extinguished. Crews remained on scene for some time afterwards ensuring the fire had not spread and investigating the cause and origin of the blaze. The injured occupant was transported to St. Joe's Hospital and was scheduled to be flown to UC Davis Burn Center later in the evening.

A resident of the adjoining house stated her backyard was on fire during the initial dispatch but no other houses were damaged. The exploding house suffered substantial structural damage throughout, with multiple walls blown in the rear of the house and obvious signs that the explosion moved the roof off the walls. While the fire was controlled within 10 minutes, crews were still on scene several hours later concluding the investigation in cooperation with deputies from the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office and Drug Task Force.

Firefighters located an active marijuana grow and hash oil operation that were determined to have caused the explosion. Property damage is estimated at over \$100,000.