



ALERT

ALBERTA LAW ENFORCEMENT RESPONSE TEAMS

News release

Alberta

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ALERT shuts down marihuana grow operation near elementary school

Edmonton... Alberta Law Enforcement Response Teams (ALERT) dismantled a sophisticated marihuana grow operation in a house located near an elementary school in the Keephills area, a small hamlet about 60 kilometres southwest of Edmonton.

ALERT's Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit – Edmonton (CFSEU), with help from the Stony Plain RCMP Detachment and the ALERT Gang Enforcement Team, began investigating after discovering evidence of a marihuana grow operation.

Search warrants were executed at two residences of the accused, including his primary home and the home housing the grow operation. The team seized 96 marihuana plants, processed marihuana, packaging, scales, two firearms, and \$10,000 cash. The property will be considered for civil forfeiture.

Investigators also found a dangerous electrical bypass in the home. Electricity meters are often tampered with or bypassed to facilitate marihuana grow operations.

John LACEY, a 42-year-old resident of Keephills, Alberta, is charged with the production of marihuana, possession for the purpose of trafficking, theft of power, simple possession and two counts of unsafe storage of a firearm.

"It's cases like this that remind us why it is important, from a public safety perspective, to eradicate these grow ops," said Acting Sergeant Ray Savage of the ALERT CFSEU. "This house presented a significant fire hazard and was sitting within 100 metres of the community school. We also found two firearms, which is a real concern to us as grows like these tend to attract violence."

To report suspicious activity or a suspected marihuana grow operation in your community, contact police or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS). For information on how to spot a marihuana grow operation, visit www.alert-ab.ca

ALERT is an umbrella organization established by the Government of Alberta to bring together the province's most sophisticated law enforcement resources to tackle serious and organized crime. Close to 400 municipal police, RCMP and sheriffs work for ALERT.

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