



NEWS



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- Yucca Valley house fire blamed on lab set up to extract THC

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A san Bernardino County Fire Department captain and firefighter/paramedic from the stations in Yucca Valley and Yucca Mesa work inside a house on the dirt road portion of Navajo Trail Friday afternoon.

YUCCA VALLEY — A house fire Friday afternoon revealed the residents were using one built-on room to grow marijuana and extract THC, the Sheriff's Department said.

Reported at 2:32 p.m., the fire burned in a house in the 54800 block of Navajo Trail. The crew from the downtown Yucca Valley station were the first to arrive at 2:41 p.m., finding flames and heavy smoke pouring from a house in the 54000 block of Navajo Trail, according to Battalion Chief Donny Viloría.

They started fighting the fire from outside the house, but as more crews arrived and were able to get inside the structure, some found evidence that something illegal was going on in the area where the fire started. The room was on the south side of the house and appeared to have been added sometime after the main building was finished, Viloría said.

The Sheriff's Department said the house was the site of a THC extraction operation and had around 80 marijuana plants growing inside as well.

The sheriff's Marijuana Enforcement Team was called to the house and served a search warrant to collect evidence.

Investigators from the **county Fire Department** determined the cause of the fire was most likely a result of the process someone was using to pull THC, the compound that gives users a high, from marijuana.

Firefighters were able to contain the blaze to the part of the house where it started; the living area sustained serious smoke damage, but could be repaired, Viloría said.

Larry Evans, 35, of Yucca Valley, was arrested on a charge of manufacturing a controlled substance. He is being held at the Morongo Basin jail on \$500,000 bail and is due in court Tuesday.

http://www.hidesertstar.com/news/article_8767ab08-263e-11e8-843b-a7a3a1a73770.html