



# Pueblo County Sheriff's Office

Kirk M. Taylor Sheriff  
J.R. Hall Undersheriff

Mark A. Mears  
Bureau Chief  
*Emergency Services*

David J. Lucero  
Bureau Chief  
*Detention*

Jeffrey S. Teschner  
Bureau Chief  
*Law Enforcement*

## News Release

For Immediate Release  
Contact: Gayle Perez 719 924 5471

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### Deputies Find Large Illegal Marijuana Grow After Responding to House Fire

**Pueblo, CO:** Pueblo County sheriff's deputies responding to a structure fire in eastern Pueblo County Monday afternoon uncovered an illegal marijuana grow with an excess of 1,400 plants on the property. The grow had an estimated street value of \$1.4 million.

Sheriff's deputies, along with members of the Sheriff's fire team, who are wildland fire trained, enlisted mutual aid with Pueblo Rural Fire and responded to the 5100 block of McCarthy Road on a report of a structure fire. When they arrived, they found smoke coming from the windows and ceiling of a home on the property. Sheriff's firefighters along with Pueblo Rural firefighters quickly extinguished the blaze. The home suffered extensive damage. A preliminary investigation determined the fire started in a pile of weeds and spread to the home. No one was in the home.

As deputies investigated the fire, they went to a large outbuilding near the residence to locate anyone on the property. As they approached the outbuilding, deputies saw evidence of a possible illegal marijuana grow operation in the building, to include multiple electrical panels, several large air conditioning units and several vents.

Narcotics detectives responded and sought a search warrant for the outbuilding. After executing the search warrant, detectives found and seized 1,446 marijuana plants from inside the building. State law allows only 12 marijuana plants per household. Although no individual has come forward to claim the grow operation, detectives are continuing to investigate to identify the person or persons responsible. No arrests have been made.

"The extreme number of marijuana plants in this grow is a sign that the product was intended solely for Black Market sale," said Pueblo County Sheriff Kirk M. Taylor. "Finding an operation of this size is an indication the black market continues to have a strong presence in our state. We will continue to seek out and eradicate these types of grow operations until all of those responsible for them realize it's against the law."

The Pueblo Regional Building Department condemned the house due to the damage. Electricity to the outbuilding was shut off due to the extensive and unsafe work done to accommodate the grow operation.



Anyone with information about this incident is asked to call the Pueblo County Sheriff's Office at (719) 583-6250 or to remain anonymous call Crime Stoppers at (719) 542-STOP (7867).

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