



Marin County Sheriff's Office
Bureau of Administration and Support Services
Professional Standards Unit

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 18, 2010

Marijuana Eradication Operation

West Marin, CA – On August 18, 2010 at about 7:00 AM, the Marin County Sheriff's Office, in collaboration with several other state and federal law enforcement agencies, began an operation involving the eradication of numerous outdoor marijuana grows in Marin County. These illicit and clandestine marijuana sites have been found in West Marin in several locations in the foothills of Mount Tamalpais.

The people who are responsible for these illegal operations have no regard for public safety, nor do they have any concern for the damage created by their grow sites. These types of criminal enterprises result in erosion damage created by the clear-cutting of indigenous plants as well as hazardous trash left behind by the lawless operators. The use of caustic and dangerous chemicals that can seep into the watershed creates additional hazards.

The sheriff's office has noticed an alarming trend of law enforcement officers as well as private citizens coming into contact with armed individuals related to these types of outdoor marijuana grows. Five armed encounters related to these unlawful operations have been reported in the North Coast and the San Francisco Bay Area in recent months. More and more citizens and visitors are becoming afraid to use public parks due to these armed individuals invading public lands. With this extensive operation, the Marin County Sheriff's Office is taking steps to destroy the marijuana grows and eliminate the threat of harm or danger to the citizens of our communities and to visitors who enjoy recreating in our public lands.

Anyone with information can call the sheriff's office at 415-479-2311 or Bay Area Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-222-TIPS and possibly receive a cash reward.