



POLICE DEPARTMENT

CITY OF WINOOSKI

27 West Allen Street
Winooski, VT 05404



Richard Hebert
Chief of Police

www.winooskipolice.com

Tel: (802) 655-0221

Fax: (802) 655-6427

The Winooski Police Department received an anonymous tip of a potential public safety concern. The location was an apartment above 30 Main St. Officials from the Code Enforcement Office, the Winooski Fire Department, and the police department contacted a tenant at the apartment. The tenant agreed to allow the fire chief and the director of code enforcement to enter the apartment to determine if there was a risk to public safety. Items were located within the apartment which indicated the presence of a functional clandestine lab.

The immediate area was evacuated to include businesses and other residential properties. Traffic was blocked for southbound traffic on Main St and detours were put in place. Assistance was requested from specialized units and services to assist in the assessment of the situation. This type of response is necessary until the unknown substances found can be evaluated and identified.

The Winooski Police Department would like to acknowledge the following agencies that provided their expertise and assistance:

- Winooski Fire Department
- Winooski Code Enforcement Office
- Winooski Public Works
- City of Burlington Fire Department
- Colchester Fire Department
- St Michael's Fire Department
- St Michael's Rescue
- Vermont State Police
- Vermont State Police Clandestine Lab Team
- Vermont Hazmat Emergency Response Team
- City of Burlington DeCon Team
- Private Company EnPro



POLICE DEPARTMENT

CITY OF WINOOSKI

27 West Allen Street
Winooski, VT 05404



www.winooskipolice.com

Tel: (802) 655-0221
Fax: (802) 655-6427

Richard Hebert
Chief of Police

The police department would also like to extend its appreciation to the businesses and citizens who were affected by this investigation. Their cooperation made the initial stages of the investigation easier to manage so that officials could bring the necessary equipment and manpower to the scene.

As you can see these types of investigations require a significant amount of resources and manpower.

Once the scene was deemed safe, an investigation was initiated. Recovered within the apartment were raw materials, equipment and final product involved in the clandestine lab operation. This was not a meth lab. Indications are this was a BHO clandestine lab. BHO is Butane Hash Oil. It is a product produced from marijuana. The process involves heat, pressure, and butane fuel. The production of BHO is equally as volatile as the production of methamphetamine. There have been documented cases of explosions, some resulting in deaths, at BHO labs. Vermont does have statutes in place related to clandestine labs. At this time these statutes do not apply to BHO labs. Criminal charges can be brought related to the materials used and the resulting product.

Items recovered at the scene will be sent to the State of Vermont Forensic Laboratory for analysis. Suspects have been identified and no charges have been brought at this time. The investigation is continuing.

We want to reassure the public and business owners that there is no ongoing safety concerns and that citizens are encouraged to return and enjoy the downtown area. The structures involved are not contaminated and are safe to occupy.