BUTTE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
MEDIA RELEASE

JERRY W. SMITH
SHERIFF-CORONER

DATE : 08-04-12

RELEASED BY : SPECIAL ENFORCEMENT UNIT

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On 08-04-12, Detectives from the Butte County Sheriff's Office Special Enforcement Unit was called to the scene of an explosion at a residence on Blakeslee Drive, Oroville. Detectives learned that Aaron Coppedge (Age 34) was manufacturing butane honey oil when vapors from the butane ignited causing an explosion inside the home's bathroom. Coppedge was inside the bathroom at the time and suffered 2nd degree burns over 35 percent of his body. Coppedge was air lifted to the Davis burn center.

A search warrant was written by SEU Detective's and a search of the home revealed the cause of the explosion was from a butane honey oil lab. Detective's noticed the explosion caused significant damage to the home to include blowing a hole in bathroom's ceiling, blowing a skylight out of the bathroom, and blowing the bathroom's door off its hinges. Other damage included dishes blown onto the floor in the kitchen area, mesh screens blown off the windows, and major damage to the home's front door and a bent sliding glass door frame.

Once Coppedge recovers from his injuries, Coppedge will be arrested for the manufacturing of a controlled substance, being armed in the commission of a felony, possession of a silencer, and felony child endangerment.

The manufacturing of butane honey oil is a felony and is extremely dangerous due to butane's -76 degree Fahrenheit flash point. The explosive nature of butane in enclosed areas is great as witnessed by this event.