

USA TODAY

Hash Oil Explosions Increase in States with Legal Pot

Transcript of video

Video here: http://goo.gl/tJxHtQ

What you are about to see is an example. It's not real. "Three!" We used gas instead of butane. "Two!" But you get the point. "One!" It's a simulation... "Clear!" "...of a hash oil explosion." Scary stuff that emergency crews are seeing more and more of.

"When we had that call, we didn't even know what hash oil was," said Captain Chris Woodford of the Forest Grove Fire department. On January 10th, 2014, firefighters in Forest Grove got the call after a huge explosion at a home near Pacific University. "I mean, this was an intense fire going. And we are literally 2 blocks from this residence, so our response time was as good as it gets." Within minutes, the entire home was engulfed in flames. Everyone escaped. Although the man cooking the hash oil suffered serious burn injuries.

"Folks trying to make has oil aren't aware of the risks," according to Captain Woodford. Search the Internet. You'll find 'butane hash oil.' It's a hot product on the marijuana market. Users get a quick and powerful high by extracting THC from marijuana to make a highly potent oil. But home production can be risky.

"It can be extremely dangerous. It can be fatal," said Woodford. To find out what's behind these blasts, we sent our cameras to Huntsville, Alabama, home to the National Center for Explosives Training and Research.

"A couple dollars worth of PVC pipe," explains Lance Hart, Senior Special Agent ATF, "and probably 7 or 8 dollars for the butane.

The ATF showed us hash oil explosions can be tricky. You need the right amount of butane in the air, but when you get that mix, it's devastating. (Explosion)

Those who produce hash oil, such as this Denver man, say cooking in a confined space is a recipe for disaster. "I wouldn't do it in an apartment. To me that's just dumb, so I wouldn't support that. It needs to be a safe area."

Cases of hash oil explosions have spiked in Colorado, leaving emergency crews in Oregon to wonder what's ahead when recreational pot becomes legal here.

"Potentially, we can certainly see more of these fires and explosions," said Woodford.

Illinois Can't Afford Pro-Pot Policies

