



Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office

Kelly Hoover
Public Information Officer
(805) 681-4192

Date: 11/9/2015
Time: 5:00 p.m.

News Release

Sheriff Deputies Save Man in Crisis

Buellton – During the late evening hours of November 8, 2015, Sheriff's Deputies were summoned to a gas station located in the 200 block of East Highway 246, for a report of a suspicious subject. According to the reporting parties, the man was observed pacing near the fuel pumps with a gas can in his hand, and had doused himself and his vehicle with gasoline. The reporting parties further indicated that that the individual appeared to be attempting to ignite the gasoline.

Upon arrival, the deputy sheriff assigned to the City of Buellton located a 48 year old man who was obviously experiencing a mental health crisis. The distraught individual was holding a gas can in one hand and cigarette lighter in his other hand. It appeared that the subject's clothing was soaked with gasoline. The deputy worked to engage the man in conversation and encourage him to move away from the gas pumps. The deputy was eventually able to convince the individual to temporarily put the lighter into his pocket while they spoke.

Additional deputies arrived on scene and assisted in communicating with the distraught man and isolating the danger posed to bystanders. In an effort to encourage the person to move away from the gas pumps, the deputies walked toward the subject while speaking with him. This caused the man to walk away from the gas pumps and into the open parking lot. Once they were close enough to do so, deputies took hold of the distraught individual and safely took him into custody. Sheriff Deputies insured that the subject will receive a mental health evaluation before he is released from Sheriff's Custody. Our deputies worked with Santa Barbara County Fire personnel and gas station personnel to insure the dangers posed by the gasoline were mitigated.

The involved Sheriff's deputies are commended for bravely performing their duties and saving the life of this man, as well as protecting the lives and property of bystanders and the Buellton community.

The individual in question is a 48 year old resident of Santa Maria. Out of respect for this man who was obviously experiencing a mental health crisis, we are not releasing his name at this time.

Normal

11-08-2015 Sun 23:05:56





###