

From: [Seminole SO Public Affairs](#)
To: [Bentsen, Kristen M](#)
Subject: SCSO NEWS RELEASE: Fire alerts first responders to marijuana grow house
Date: Monday, June 01, 2015 4:13:10 PM
Attachments: [Justin Burch Arrest Report Redacted.pdf](#)
[Justin Burch Mug Shot.jpg](#)
[Grow House 1.jpg](#)
[Grow House 2.jpg](#)

NEWS RELEASE

Fire alerts first responders to marijuana grow house

Seminole Co. Fla., (June 1, 2015) - The Seminole County Sheriff's Office City-County Investigative Bureau (CCIB) yesterday arrested Justin Burch, 32, of Winter Park, after a fire at his residence alerted first responders to an indoor marijuana grow house.

At approximately 5 p.m., Sheriff's deputies and the Seminole County Fire Department (SCFD) responded to a fire at 8420 Admiral Point in unincorporated Winter Park and found a lawn trailer adjacent to the garage fully engulfed in flames. Firefighters extinguished the exterior blaze, but continued to observe smoke emanating from the garage's roof top. Concerned about additional fires inside the home and the possibility of nearby structures being affected, firefighters attempted to go in the home, but Burch became uncooperative and initially tried to block the door. Upon entering the home, firefighters found no fire, but observed a large amount of marijuana plants, drug paraphernalia, and propane tanks inside.

Deputies then contacted agents with CCIB who obtained a search warrant. Inside the residence, agents found a large-scale marijuana grow operation with 68 marijuana plants and 18 pounds of harvested marijuana. Agents estimate the street value of a pound of marijuana to be between \$3,500-4,500. The plants averaged three to six feet in height, and were primarily located in two rooms of the house. Approximately half of the plants were mature; a mature plant can yield a pound of marijuana per harvest and can produce three to four crops per year. Agents believe the house had the potential to generate more than \$675,000 worth of marijuana annually.

Burch was charged with trafficking marijuana over 25 pounds and is being held without bond at the John E. Polk Correctional Facility.

Photographs of the marijuana plants, along with Burch's arrest report and mug shot, are attached to this release.

Please do not respond back to this email as the account is not monitored. For more information contact:

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