

NEWS RELEASE



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CASE NUMBER: 08-03175

DATE / TIME OF INCIDENT: 04-30-2008 / 1424

DATE / TIME OF RELEASE: 05-01-2008 / 1300

NATURE OF STORY: Explosion injury

INCIDENT LOCATION: 33838 E. River Drive - Creswell

INVOLVED: Miller, Vernal G. - Creswell
DOB: 12-14-1957

DETAILS:

Lane County sheriff's deputies and medical personnel responded to a reported explosion and injured person at the Riverwood Mobile Home Park at 33838 E. River Drive, near Creswell. Deputies and medical personnel located Miller inside his home with severe injuries. Miller was transported to Sacred Heart Medical Center in Eugene for continued medical treatment.

Metro Explosives Disposal Unit personnel have determined Miller was injured by a 37mm cannon round of World War I era. These munitions were fired from single and multiple barreled mounted rifles. This particular piece was manufactured in Paris, France in September of 1916. They were a very common WWI souvenir and are still plentiful in Europe, the US and Canada. The shell carried either a high explosive or black powder burst charge that was initiated by an impact fuse in the nose, very similar to a large rifle primer.

Deputies have learned Miller was attempting to separate the projectile from the casing in order to recycle the brass from the casing. This action caused the detonation of the device.

If persons discover munitions they are not familiar with or are of military origin they should stay a safe distance from the device. Do not handle the device, and immediately notify law enforcement so the device can be evaluated and made safe.

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Prepared by: Lieutenant Byron Trapp