



# City of Ridgecrest Police Department

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Ronald N. Strand, Chief of Police

## Press Release

**DATE OF INCIDENT:** MARCH 23, 2011  
**TYPE OF INCIDENT:** NARCOTICS SEARCH WARRANT  
**LOCATION OCCURED:** LELITER RD. INYOKERN, CA  
**SUSPECT:** Lloyd Mason – 55 years old  
Inyokern Resident

On 03/23/2011, Officers and Detectives of the Ridgecrest Police Department in conjunction with the Kern Narcotics Enforcement Team (KNET), Kern County Eastern Area Special Enforcement Team (EASET), and California City Police Department served a narcotics search warrant in the 7200 block of Leliter Rd. in Inyokern, CA. The investigation was led by RPD Detectives Cory Ballestero and Kenneth Merzlak. At the location, approximately three (3) ounces of suspected methamphetamine, ten (10) pounds of processed marijuana, concentrated cannabis (hashish), firearms, drug paraphernalia, and other items related to drug sales were seized.

During a search of the surrounding property, suspicious chemicals were found buried in the ground. Kern County Haz-Mat/Environmental Health and the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) Task Force were called to the scene to investigate. Whereas the located chemicals could be part of the process in methamphetamine and clandestine lab manufacturing, the required chemicals and/or amounts were not present to charge criminally with drug manufacturing.

The resident of the property, Lloyd Mason, was arrested and charged with the following violations:

HS 11378	- Possession of a controlled substance for sales.
HS 11377(a)	- Possession of a controlled substance.
PC 12316(b)	- Felon in possession of ammunition.
PC 12021(a)(1)	- Felon in possession of a firearm.
PC 12020(a)(1)	- Possession of a dangerous/illegal weapon.
HS 11364	- Possession of drug paraphernalia.
HS 11359	- Possession of marijuana for sales.
HS 11357(a)	- Possession of concentrated cannabis.

The Ridgecrest Police Department appreciates the assistance provided by local allied agencies in this investigation and in the service of the search warrant.

Prepared By: Sgt. Justin Dampier

**RONALD N. STRAND - Chief of Police**  
**Wednesday, March 30, 2011 10:38**