



## Press Release

7/5/07

On July 4<sup>th</sup> at 1952 hrs. Deputies responded to assist the fire department with an injured child. The incident occurred in the 6800 blk. of 105<sup>th</sup> Ave. S.W. in Thurston County. Deputies discovered an 8 yr. old Thurston County boy had been injured by a piece of metal that apparently was from a metal “cannon” that had been discharged during a family gathering at the residence. The victim was struck in the chest and he was transported to a local hospital where he was pronounced deceased around 2123 hrs. according to the Coroner’s Office. He was visiting relatives at the residence for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. There were 9 adults and 7 children present and only the victim was injured.

Deputies began investigating the incident and were able to locate the remains of the ‘cannon’ which was approx. a 100 ft. away from where the victim was injured. Two pieces of shrapnel from the cannon were located prior to darkness. One was 223 ft. away from the cannon and it was nearly 3” by 3” in size. The second piece was 2.5 in. by 2 in. in size and was found by citizen near the west side of the residence in question. No other persons were injured and the victim was standing with at least one other person when he was struck by the shrapnel from the exploding cannon. The “cannon” appears to have been approx. 18 in. long overall before it exploded. The exact reason the “cannon” exploded is under investigation. The origins of the “cannon” are also being determined.

It appears that the cannon was set off as part of a 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration at the property. The “cannon” appears to have broken apart into pieces. The main portion that has been recovered is a little less than 7 in. long by 3.5 in. in diameter. Detectives were called to scene by on the on duty Patrol Supervisor. The scene was secured overnight and guarded so a more thorough investigation and search for evidence can be conducted. Detectives are investigating whether a criminal act is involved in this incident.

In an unrelated incident, another child was injured when a “bottle rocket” flew in the vehicle the 3 yr. old was riding in and exploded at approx. 2010 hrs. in the Nisqually Pines area of S.E. Thurston County near Yelm. The child received minor injuries. The person who discharged the firework was not found.

Jim Chamberlain  
Chief Criminal Deputy