



**Bexar County Office of the Fire Marshal**  
San Antonio, Texas 78205-3036

**Press Release**  
**May 5, 2023**

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**Report of Explosions Leads to Two Arrests**

On May 3, 2023, at approximately 5:00 p.m., Bexar County Fire Marshal Investigators responded to a report of explosives being set off in the 11200 block of Buttercup Lane. Deputies with the Bexar County Sheriff's Office responded as well and stopped a vehicle suspected to be involved near the incident location.

While interacting with the two occupants of the vehicle, deputies observed what appeared to be a possible improvised explosive device inside the vehicle. Both occupants were detained, and the San Antonio Police Department's bomb squad responded to the scene of the traffic stop. The bomb technicians determined the device was pyrotechnic in nature.

During their investigation at the scene of the reported explosions, Deputy Fire Marshals discovered blast damage caused by explosives on an open field on the residential lot. In addition to the property damage, investigators recovered two stolen vehicles from the affected property as well. One of the detained suspects was wanted on an out-of-county felony warrant.

The suspects were identified as Joey Lewayne Whitehead (42) and Robert Joe Pena (43). As a result of the investigation and the warrant, Whitehead was arrested on felony charges of Possession of a Controlled Substance, Second Degree Arson, and a misdemeanor charge of Failure to Identify/Giving False Information. Pena was arrested on felony charges of Second Degree Arson and Possession of a Controlled Substance.

The investigation is ongoing.

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