



Bates County Sheriff's Office

Chad Anderson, Sheriff

6 West Ft. Scott Street

Butler, Mo 64730

Phone 660-679-3232

Fax 660-679-4147

Press Release

On 10/23/2017, Deputies from the Bates County Sheriff's Office checked the speed of a vehicle traveling 88mph in a 55mph zone on A Highway west of Rich Hill Missouri. The vehicle was driven by Dwight W Smith of Butler Missouri. The subjects in the vehicle have been suspects in a several month long narcotics investigation by Sheriff's Detectives and CNET Drug Taskforce Officers. The Deputy requested assistance from a K9 unit that was in the area. The K9 unit conducted a sniff of the vehicle and alerted to the presence of narcotic odor in the vehicle.

A search of the vehicle was conducted and components used to manufacture methamphetamine were located in the vehicle. Detectives and an agent from the CNET Drug Taskforce responded to the scene. Once it was determined as to where the occupants were coming from they responded to that residence. Once at the residence in rural Rich Hill, Detectives secured the scene until the resident arrived home. The resident cooperated with Detectives and gave consent to search the garage that the three in the vehicle left from and where they believed that a methamphetamine laboratory was set up.

Within a minute of entering the garage area, Detectives determined that there were indeed components and equipment to manufacture methamphetamines and that it was unsafe to enter without the proper protective equipment. The CNET Drug Taskforce agent who is certified in clandestine methamphetamine labs entered the building with the proper equipment to make the evidence safe to transport.

The three subjects in the vehicle were identified as:

Dwight W Smith, W/M 6/18/1984 of Butler Missouri was charged with Possession of methamphetamine precursors a class E Felony and bond was set at \$4500 c/s.



Austin C Smith, W/M 6/15/1983 of Butler Missouri was charged with Possession of methamphetamine precursors a class E Felony and bond was set at \$4500 c/s.



Calen D Chaney, B/M 8/19/1989 of Butler Missouri was charged with Possession of methamphetamine precursors a class E Felony and bond was set at \$4500 c/s.



Sheriff Anderson says, "Citizens tips are how we came to start this investigation. We have been performing surveillance at several locations and this vehicle and the owner also frequented a house that we served a search warrant on last week in Butler. We are committed to the Citizens of Bates County to do our best to take drugs off the streets and protect our community. As this investigation continues we fully expect to see more charges on these subjects and additional people who have been connected to assisting in the manufacturing methamphetamines through the purchase of pseudoephedrine and other components."



