

DAVID RIGGLE TAKEN INTO CUSTODY FOR UPTON BOMB SCARE



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“Everyone stepped up to the plate,” Weston County Sheriff Bryan Covlard told the *Gazette* Wednesday night, December 11th. The Sheriff referred to the several law enforcement agencies which swarmed into Upton on December 10th and 11th as they sought to take a suspect into custody over the November 30th planting of an improvised explosive device (IED) in an oilfield equipment storage facility south of Upton. “There was no desire to get anyone hurt,” the Sheriff continued.

Agencies responding Wednesday were of course the Weston County Sheriff’s Office, including the Weston County Sheriff’s Office Search and Rescue team who was able to secure footprints near the suspect’s residence, Newcastle Police Department, Wyoming Highway Patrol, Wyoming Game & Fish, and the Wyoming, Montana, and Denver, Colorado branch offices of the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF).

Early on the morning of November 30th, TYVO, LLC employees returning to their jobsite south of Upton discovered the IED, which consisted of a propane tank and detonation mechanism. Fortunately, numerous failures in the device kept the IED from detonating and damaging people or property. That morning, the Sheriff’s office responded, with assistance of the bomb squad from the Campbell

County Sheriff’s Office. The explosive ordinance was rendered safe and collected for evidence.

In the nearly two weeks that followed, law enforcement investigations followed leads and evidence which zeroed in on Upton. Among one of the leads was an uncommon component of the IED, which was only available in Weston County at Bomgaars in Newcastle. Using Bomgaars’ security cameras, Sheriff Colvard told the *Gazette* they were able to identify the suspect purchasing the component at Bomgaars on Monday, November 25th, especially when corroborated with security cameras at other Newcastle locations.

The strong and expansive presence of several law enforcement agencies in the “Best Town on Earth” on Tuesday and Wednesday in what was described as a “training exercise” to the public and Town of Upton municipal government proved to be a well-coordinated operation to apprehend the suspect in the constructing and planting of the IED.

On Wednesday afternoon, law enforcement and federal agents served a federal search warrant at the home of David Charles Riggle of Nester Road just south of Upton’s city limits, and Riggle, the alleged builder and planter of the IED, was taken safely into custody without injury or incident to himself, his

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