

FBI and State Police Investigate Belchertown Storage Unit

Originally printed at <http://www.cbs3springfield.com/news/local/FBI-and-State-Police-Investigate-Belchertown-Storage-Unit-114026069.html>

By Natalie Tolomeo
January 17, 2011

A multi-agency investigation in Belchertown Monday night as officials spent hours going through several storage units.

Investigators combed through explosives inside a unit at the Amherst Self-Storage facility on Route 9 in Belchertown.

"Some of the items that were alarming were some ammunition, some gun powder and some wiring that was suspicious," says Belchertown Police Chief Fran Fox.

The storage unit in question was sold at an auction this weekend. When the new buyers went to see what was in it, they were shocked and called police.

"It is isolated and it's being looked through," says Fox. "Any hazardous materials will be removed."

FBI agents and troopers with the state police bomb squad and fire marshal's office were on scene with Belchertown first responders for hours Monday night.

"The agencies are here making sure it's not any hazard or danger to the community," Fox says.

As FBI agents and state police continue investigating, neighbors tell CBS 3 Springfield they're shocked. They say nothing like this has ever happened inside the storage facility.

"That's crazy, that much ammo over there, oh my god," says Doreen LaRose, of Belchertown.

"Hopefully the ammo was stored correctly. If it's not, then you've got an issue," Ken Thomas, of Belchertown, says.

As junk from the unit is thrown away, the explosives have now become state police evidence.

"They definitely need to find that person that had that storage unit and loaded it like that and put us all in danger in the neighborhood we love," LaRose says.

Officials say the previous owner of that storage unit will be questioned. Lead investigators plan to follow up Tuesday but say that no one in the Belchertown community is at risk.