



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NITRO UPDATE

HAMILTON, MO., MAN INDICTED FOR CONSPIRING TO MANUFACTURING METH

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Hamilton, Mo., man was indicted by a federal grand jury today for conspiring to manufacture methamphetamine.

Troy A. Blackburn, 34, of Hamilton, Mo., was indicted by a federal grand jury in Kansas City for conspiring to manufacture 50 grams or more of methamphetamine.

The federal indictment alleges that **Blackburn** conspired with others to manufacture 50 grams or more of methamphetamine between May 1, 2000, and May 7, 2003.

Blackburn was first charged with conspiring to manufacture methamphetamine in a criminal complaint filed on May 7, 2003, in Kansas City. According to an affidavit filed in support of the criminal complaint, law enforcement officers stopped **Blackburn** for a traffic violation on May 6, 2003. Upon conducting the routine traffic stop, law enforcement officers discovered methamphetamine and ingredients used to manufacture methamphetamine in **Blackburn's** vehicle. Following the search of the vehicle, law enforcement officers searched **Blackburn's** home on May 7, 2003. Law enforcement officers discovered approximately 100 grams of methamphetamine base in coffee filters located in the garage at **Blackburn's** residence. According to the affidavit filed in support of the criminal complaint, law enforcement officers also found precursor materials and methamphetamine manufacturing equipment throughout **Blackburn's** residence. Today's indictment replaces the criminal complaint.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the indictment are simply accusations, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Candace R. Cole. It was investigated by NITRO, the Northwest Missouri Team Response Operation. NITRO is a joint law enforcement effort by the United States Attorney's Office and federal, state and local law enforcement agencies in the 16-county region. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the North Central Missouri Drug Task Force, the Caldwell County, Mo., Sheriff's Office and the Missouri State Highway Patrol also assisted with the investigation.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow