



News Release



Seattle Field Division

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ATF INVESTIGATES FATAL BANK BOMBING

WOODBURN, Ore. – Acting Special Agent in Charge Douglas R. Dawson, Seattle Field Division, of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) today announced that agents from the Portland, Yakima and Seattle Field Offices are investigating a double fatal bombing at the West Coast Bank.

On December 12, 2008 a Wells Fargo Bank employee received an anonymous bomb threat call. The caller instructed the employee to evacuate the bank and to recover items located in a dumpster on the side of the bank. The employee called 911 and the bank was evacuated. Local law enforcement responded and located the package. The package was determined to be a hoax device.

Hours later, an employee of the West Coast Bank located a green steel box that had been placed on the side of the bank and notified 911. Woodburn PD Officers responded to investigate. After an examination of the second device by an OSP bomb technician, it was believed to be non-functioning and the officers took the device inside the bank. At approximately 5:20 PM the device detonated inside the bank causing fatalities and injuries.

"This was a senseless and tragic crime of violence that took the lives of two courageous police officers, critically injuring the Chief of Police and severely injuring a bank employee", stated Acting Special Agent in Charge, Douglas R. Dawson. "ATF is committed to working with our federal and state law enforcement partners in solving this heinous crime".

ATF investigators are in control of the scene of the blast and actively working the investigation. Explosive evidence collected at the scene is being sent to the ATF explosives lab in Walnut Creek, California.

Also assisting in the investigation are the FBI, Oregon State Police, Woodburn Oregon Police Department and the Marion County Oregon Sheriff's Department.

More information on ATF and its programs can be found at www.atf.gov.

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