

MARY JANE

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Department, a "Basic Physicians Statement and Recommendation" allows a patient to have up to 12 immature plants or 6 mature plants. The next level of recommendation is called a 420 Exempt, this allows you to have up to 99 plants.

So in order to start a marijuana grow-op, growers frequently have to make major adjustments to the ceilings, walls and basic infrastructure of the home. Marijuana plants require large amounts of water, light and air ventilation (to stimulate the plant and

handle the excess moisture).

One of the problems is that people don't always consult an electrician before deciding to grow in their homes or rental units. "The town doesn't want to see people setting their houses on fire," said Scott Calvert of 420 Medicaid, "Measure M states that if you draw more than 1200 watts of power, which is basically a couple of lights and a fan, you must have an affidavit signed by an electrician and then have that submitted to the police department." Calvert went on to say, "I've

never heard of a setup in a condo or rental unit that hasn't done some damage to the place. You have to know what your doing."

Recently I spoke with a local electrician (who wished to remain anonymous) who stated that he got a call about installing two 1,000 watt fixtures and an exhaust fan system for an individual who said he wanted to build a grow room in his house. Which is legal, but according to a study by the Electrical Distributors Association, grow-ops can consume up to 300 kilowatt hours per day. Though this is considered a larger scale operation, it is ten times the average household power consumption. According to the same study the likelihood of fire in a home hosting a grow-op is 40% higher.

"You just want to make sure you're not overloading your circuit. The typical ampage for a house breaker is 15 amps. Now you're only allowed to run that at 80%, which is about 12 amps. Depending on your setup you could easily go over your ampage once combined with average household appliances," said Mike Wright of Wright Electric, a 420 friendly business.

Jorge Cervantes, author of Marijuana Horticulture stated, "You need to pay attention to electrical connections, ampere ratings for wire, breaker switches and connectors. Not only could you lose your crop but also your life."

I then spoke with an experienced

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