Leftover Parts Leave Plumbers In Perilous Predicament

A box of spare plumbing parts brought the wrath of local law enforcement down upon a pair of plumbers Friday night. According to Under Sheriff Gary Redman, around 7:45 the Amador County Sheriff’s Office received a call from an employee at the AMPM in Martell reporting that they had found a “Pipe bomb” in an ice chest near the gas pumps which had been left behind by a customer. Deputies responded, and after reviewing surveillance footage it appeared the ice chest was deliberately removed and placed next to the garbage cans near the gas pumps. The subject immediately left the area. Due to the suspicious nature of the call; Deputies evacuated the area and contacted the Calaveras Sheriff’s Office Explosive Ordinance Disposal Unit. A Be On the Lookout was immediately broadcast to all jurisdictions within the county. With the assistance of the California Highway Patrol, Sutter Creek Police and Jackson Police, checkpoints were established along with a Code Red notification. A short time later, the Jackson Rancheria Casino notified Amador County Sheriff’s Dispatch that the suspect and truck were currently on casino property. Deputies responded and detained the driver and a passenger in the pickup. The driver explained to the deputies the ice chest contained brass plumbing fittings that he no longer needed. He told deputies, since the ice chest and plumbing parts were too large to place in the trash can; he simply left the ice chest next to the trash can for employees to dispose of. The Calaveras EOD teams X-rayed the ice chest, and were able to determine the contents were simply plumbing parts; and not an explosive device. Both the driver and his passenger were released.

