

WRITING A NEWS ARTICLE SAMPLE

Microsoft Publisher has newsletter templates that would work for this writing task.

BETWEEN THE LIONS

Police confirm drug lab in upscale home

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By Bob Loblaw

Early this morning, police found two 100-gallon drums containing what is potentially a "highly explosive" substance in one of two attached houses used as meth labs. The houses, owned by a father and son, are on Woburn Ave. in an upscale north Toronto neighbourhood.

Det.-Sgt. Jim Qualtrough told reporters outside the home that the drums contain anhydrous ammonia. The containers were being removed this afternoon. The duplex home had been used as a drug lab: one house was used to "cook" the drug, and the other to store it.

"When making methampheta- mine, it's the vapours that are created" that pose the risk of an explosion, he said. Police have evacuated several homes in the area because of the risk. The entire block has been cordoned off as the drug unit and hazardous treatment company remove the vats of chemicals.

Neighbours reported a "strong chemical smell." Police in haz-mat (hazardous material) suits arrived to investigate at the Woburn address. The duplex is two \$810 000 brick houses which had been sold recently.

People out walking their dogs looked with curiosity past the police tape, squad cars, and fire trucks. "It's a nice, calm, quiet area," said Sam Alter, who was walking his two schnauzers. A woman who declined to give her name commented, "I'm shocked. It happens all over the world all the time, but I am shocked it happened here...in our own back yard!"



Police say this red brick duplex on Woburn Avenue was being used to manufacture drugs.
[Photo: Andrew Wallace]

Police confirmed that they have been investigating this area for weeks. Drug manufacturers are seeking quiet neighbourhoods to produce narcotics in an attempt to hide away from police drug squads. "What is disturbing is that this lab is right in the middle of this neighbourhood, where children play and families live. No one would suspect a drug lab here," said Staff Inspector Maria DiTommaso of the Toronto police drug squad.

No one had been arrested, police said, though the investigation is continuing. It is likely the father and son who purchased the duplex are not the drug "kingpins" police are seeking, but rather are just the homebuyers. Drug officers are expected to work through the day gathering and removing evidence.

When
Who
What
Where

Facts
Explain

Explain

Why?

Conclusion

next steps