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Mobile meth lab uncovered by city police

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EAST LIVERPOOL — What appeared to be a methamphetamine lab was found in the trunk of a car Saturday morning in East Liverpool.

According to a report from the Columbiana County Drug Task Force, glass containers, various chemicals, Coleman fuel, plastic tubing, batteries, and an electric mixer were found in two bags in the trunk, and a small amount of suspected methamphetamine was found in the interior of the car.

A detective with the East Liverpool Police Department said that while labs can be set up to manufacture methamphetamine while the car is driving, this lab was inactive at the time.

East Liverpool police received a tip by telephone that a blue car containing a mobile meth lab would be in the Lisbon Street-area between 10-10:30 a.m.

The Columbiana County Drug Task Force was notified, and the vehicle was located in the Kwik King parking lot on Lisbon Street. The vehicle was stopped on a traffic violation by East Liverpool police, and its driver, Douglas Howell, 44, was questioned and taken into custody.

The vehicle was then towed to another location, where agents from the Drug Task Force and Drug Enforcement Administration responded.

The Liverpool Township and St. Clair Township police departments also assisted in the investigation.

Howell was charged with the third-degree felony of having precursors for the manufacturing of metamphetamine.
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