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17 fully automatic weapons among more than 70 seized at deteriorating Eugene house

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A 47-year-old Eugene man was arrested after being found in possession of 70 firearms, 17 of which were fully automatic weapons.

A 47-year-old Eugene man was arrested after being found in possession of more than 70 firearms, 17 of which were full-automatic weapons.

The man had the weapons stashed in a rundown home on the 400 block of Wilkie Street, which the city code enforcement began boarding up Tuesday, Melinda McLaughlin, Eugene police spokeswoman, said in a Friday news release. The next day, city workers trying to clean up the property determined someone tried to break into the house overnight. Eugene police then learned the owner had automatic weapons inside, the news release said.

The homeowner showed up to retrieve the firearms but was turned away by police, according to the news release.

Eugene police then applied for a search warrant.

Inside, police found suspicious explosive devices that eventually were determined to be inert. Police also found more than 70 guns inside the home, 17 of which were full-automatic weapons, according to the news release. Police also found two silencers.

Local police called in the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

The homeowner had left the area, but police determined Thursday he was at a location outside of Veneta. Though a SWAT team was mobilized, police spotted

the homeowner on Jeans Road in Veneta and arrested him, the news release said.

The homeowner was charged with 19 counts of possession of prohibited firearm, first-degree theft and possession of methamphetamine.