

Ohio State Highway Patrol

Media Release



For Immediate Release: February 17, 2011
Contact: Lt. Jon Payer 937-773-0242

Patrol seizes 871 pounds of marijuana, valued at nearly \$2 million in Preble County traffic stop

DAYTON – A man from Mexico is facing felony drug charges after Ohio State Highway Patrol troopers seized 871 pounds of marijuana, valued at nearly \$2 million during a traffic stop yesterday in Preble County.

Troopers stopped a 2004 Ford F150 extended cab pick-up truck, with Ohio registration, for a cracked windshield and a following too closely violation on Interstate 70, near milepost 13, at approximately 12:10 p.m. Criminal indicators were observed and troopers could see a large bundle of marijuana in the cab of the truck. A Patrol drug-sniffing canine alerted to the vehicle and a probable cause search revealed 36 bundles of marijuana, weighing 871 pounds, located in the cab and cargo area of the truck.

The driver, Lazaro V. Montoya, 29, of Mexico, was charged with possession of marijuana, a second-degree felony and possession of criminal tools, a fifth-degree felony.

The suspect was incarcerated in the Preble County Jail. If convicted, he could face up to nine years in prison and a \$22,500 fine.

A photo of the seized marijuana is available for download on the Patrol's web site at www.statepatrol.ohio.gov.

#

11-022