



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF TULARE

Tim Ward, *District Attorney*

PRESS RELEASE

5/5/17

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY URGES AGAINST USE OF HIGHLY TOXIC
PESTICIDE SOLD AT SWAP MEET**

On February 23, 2017, investigators with the Tulare County District Attorney's Office seized a substantial quantity of a suspected unregistered homemade pesticide powder. The unregistered pesticide was located at the Visalia Swap Meet and was being sold under the name of "Krazy Powder Roach Killer." Acting on information provided by another law enforcement agency, investigators visited the Visalia Swap Meet and found the pesticide being sold at two different establishments at that location.

On May 3, 2017, Le Nguyen, age 34, and Thao Nguyen, age 30, were arraigned on charges that they unlawfully and willfully possessed a non-registered pesticide. They are also charged with selling a non-registered pesticide. Both charges are misdemeanors. They have entered not guilty pleas and the case is set for further pre-trial on May 17, 2017.

The unregistered pesticide is believed to contain the substance 'acephate', which is used as an industrial pesticide in field and other outdoor settings and should be severely diluted when applied. It is not generally meant to be used in its powder form, where it could be inhaled or absorbed through the skin by people and animals. Exposure can cause severe effects on human health. The product is labeled and marketed as being toxic free.

"Krazy Powder Roach Killer" has been advertised on flyers and banners and has been sold at swap meets. It is not sold in stores and is not properly labeled and/or registered. The investigation is ongoing.

Anyone who has purchased this product should not use it inside their home, and anyone with information regarding the purchase or sale of this product is urged to contact the Consumer Fraud and Environmental Protection Unit of the Tulare County District Attorney's Office at 559-636-5410.

*Media inquiries can be directed to the Office of the District Attorney, County of Tulare
Assistant District Attorney Dave Alavezos (559) 636-5494*