



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
Public Information Officer, 352-797-3609

Re: Arrest Made in Fraudulent Pest Control Scam

Date: August 31, 2012

A-1 Pest Control employed Luis Angel Roman for several years. He was terminated on July 1, 2012, due to failed environmental regulations.

Being terminated from the company did not stop Roman from doing business with the customers though, nor did it stop him from using the A-1 Pest Control company name. Roman continued visiting his regular customers and selling them pest control services. He even advised some of his customers that they were “infested” with “super termites” that he referred to as “Formosa termites.” He advised them that they should purchase costly contracts from him (as he continued representing the company they already knew and trusted) so he could assist in getting rid of the insects.

Several customers trusted Roman’s professional advice and purchased the costly contracts. Obviously, none of the customers had reason to believe that Roman had been terminated from A-1 Pest Control.

One customer became suspicious when her son, who was visiting from out of town, questioned a contract written by Roman for fungus. The son could find no fungus, contacted A-1 Pest Control, and was advised that Roman was terminated in July. The customer then called the Sheriff’s Office and the investigation began.

After speaking with the owner of A-1 Pest Control, Jerry Cole, detectives determined that Roman had been writing fictitious contracts, cashing the checks, and keeping the money. Mr. Cole also advised there are no such insects as “Formosa termites.”

The victims identified Luis Angel Roman out of a photo pack as the individual that sold pest control services to them, representing A-1 Pest Control.

A warrant was issued for the arrest of Luis Angel Roman W/M DOB/08-03-1971 for Grand Theft (2 counts). Shortly after the warrant was issued, another case was received by the lead detective. This case involves one victim that signed six fictitious contracts over a four-month period, totaling \$13,365. This victim also identified Roman as the suspect. Additional charges are forthcoming as other cases come in.

Detectives believe there may be more victims. If you or someone you know may have been a victim of Luis Angel Roman or this pest control scam, please contact Detective Irene Gray at 352-797-3718 or igray@hernandosheriff.org

If you would like to know if your contract with A-1 Pest Control is valid, please contact the business. They will be glad to check the legitimacy of any contract.