



## Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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### Media Release

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**From:** Denise M. Moloney  
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**Re:** Family Receives Suspicious Package Containing White Powder

**Date:** January 8, 2019

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On 01-07-19, just before 5 p.m., Hernando County Sheriff's deputies and the Hernando County HAZMAT team responded to 473 Copper Hill Road in Spring Hill (Sterling Hill) regarding a suspicious package that contained a white powdery substance.

Upon arrival, deputies met with Angelia and David Barrett, the residents of the home. The Barretts told deputies they received a package (from China) in the mail, earlier in the day. Mrs. Barrett did not recall ordering anything from China, but opened the package to see what was inside.

Inside the box were two silver bags. When Mrs. Barrett opened one of the bags, a white powdery substance spilled out onto the kitchen counter. She quickly cleaned up the substance and placed both bags and the box outside. The Barretts then notified the Hernando County Sheriff's Office.

Deputies, wearing the proper personal protection equipment (PPE), securely bagged the items and removed them from the Barrett's property.

Mr. and Mrs. Barret, and the children inside the residence, immediately washed themselves and evacuated the residence.

The Hernando County HAZMAT team responded to the scene and conducted multiple field tests on the unknown powdery substance. All tests showed negative indicators for any hazardous material.

The substance was removed from the scene by deputies and will be further tested by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) labs.

There were no injuries reported from this incident.

If you happen to receive a package from someone you don't know, or a company you don't do business with, please do not open it. Please contact authorities.

**The Office of Sheriff:**

**The Office of the Sheriff is established by the Florida Constitution. As a constitutional officer, the Sheriff has the exclusive authority to administer his or her agency and is responsible for preserving the peace throughout the entire county, carrying out the laws of the state, the orders of Florida courts, and the ordinances of the Board of County Commissioners. The Sheriff is the chief law enforcement and correctional officer of the county.**

**Sheriff Al Nienhuis was initially appointed as the Sheriff of Hernando County by the Governor in January of 2011. He was then elected by the people of Hernando County in 2012, and remains accountable to them.**