



Fresno County Sheriff's Department
Margaret Mims, Sheriff
News Release

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MEDIA ADVISORY: Suspect Drives “Super” Meth Lab To Sheriff Investigators

Fresno County Sheriff Margaret Mims today announced the arrest of three suspects involved in the production of methamphetamine, and the interception of a super meth lab.

Arrested were 46 year old Juan Gaytan of Chowchilla, and 29 year old Julian Cuevas and 46 year old Evencio Onofre, both of Merced. The arrests ended a two month investigation by investigators from the Sheriff's Fresno Meth Task Force.

During the investigation, undercover investigators had made contact with Gaytan who was in possession of all of the hardware and chemicals needed to start a meth lab. Gaytan was lacking the necessary amount of efedrin to complete the lab however, and made a deal with the undercover officer to purchase the chemical.

On 4-19-07 at approximately 12:00pm, Gaytan met with undercover investigators in downtown Fresno. Gaytan arrived in his vehicle that contained all of the lab hardware and chemicals. The hardware and chemicals were seized and Gaytan was arrested.

With assistance from Fresno Police Department narcotics officers, the two other subjects, Cuevas and Onofre, were arrested yesterday in the area of McKinley & Chestnut. Both had driven to Fresno, at Gaytan's request, to purchase the efedrin for \$20,000. Upon the arrest, the suspects had \$20,000 cash with them.

All three suspects are being held at the Fresno County Jail on charges of conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine.

Based on the amount of chemicals and equipment seized, investigators estimate the amount of methamphetamine that could have been manufactured by the lab to be approximately 12-15 pounds, with a street value in as much as \$180,000.

Anyone with information regarding this case is asked to contact Sgt. Stephen McComas at 457-5000, or the Fresno County Sheriff's Department at 488-3111.