



# Rat nests close food store

Report details multiple health violations

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A grocery store in Maite has been shut down because of a rat infestation and other violations related to its alleged failure to keep food items safe from contamination.

The Department of Public Health and Social Services' Division of Environmental Health issued a notice of closure on Monday, rendering San Jose Supermarket unable to conduct business until the violations are rectified and its sanitary permit is reissued.

As of yesterday, the grocery store, which advertises as being open 24 hours a day, every day, remains closed for the fourth day.

**Store's permit removed**

The presence of rat droppings, rat urine and rat nests and holes in the grocery store prompted the removal of the store's sanitary permit because the conditions are considered an "imminent health hazard," said Katherine Del Mundo, acting administrator for the division's Bureau of Inspection and Enforcement.

The store was unable to show proof of any type of pest-control management, according to the bureau's inspection report.

Raw turkey was being stored on top of raw pork, and below raw beef in the display chiller in the back of the store, the report states.

Raw meats and raw shelled eggs were stored in temperatures that did not meet the cold temperature requirements for raw food.

A maximum temperature of 41 degrees Fahrenheit is required to prevent the growth of pathogens that may cause food-borne diseases, according to the inspection report. When inspected, Public Health recorded a temperature of 52 F for a chiller that held raw turkey, and raw beef was held in a chiller at 49 F, according to the report.

A refrigerator set at 40 F or below will protect most foods, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

No food thermometer and ambient air thermometer was provided for "all of chill units," the inspection found.

Some food and drink items were stored directly on the floor, and not in compliance with the requirement that these items should be at least 6 inches off the ground to prevent contamination, the inspection found.

The store's purified-water refill station was also closed.

With its sanitary inspection pulled out, and its rating changed from A to D, the store would have to correct the multiple violations and clear a follow-up inspection before it may reopen.

Kenny Yoon, identified in the report as the person in charge of the store, said yesterday he's trying to correct the issues identified by the Public Health inspectors.

He said he hopes to comply with all of the requirements and be ready for reinspection and opening, possibly today.

He declined to say anything further.

### **Rat holes, nests**

Rat holes and nests were found "everywhere in the store and in the storage area," and multiple openings were found in the ceiling, walls and floor, according to the inspection report.

Dead cockroaches were found in the restroom, where toilet bowls and the floor had dark stains, the report stated.

Two of the store's employees were working without valid health certificates, according to the report, and cardboard boxes and garbage were piled on the floor in the back of the building.