



COUNTY OF YOLO
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
JEFF W. REISIG, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: January 25, 2012

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Woodland Man found guilty of five counts of workers' compensation insurance fraud.

Woodland, CA - Jeff Reisig, Yolo County District Attorney announced that on January 24, 2012, a Yolo County jury found defendant Stephen Eugene Harder, age 45, of Woodland, guilty of five counts of Workers' Compensation Insurance Fraud relating to his claim for benefits.

On February 26, 2009, the Yolo County District Attorney Insurance Fraud Unit received a complaint from the State Compensation Insurance Fund alleging that the defendant was attempting to exaggerate his industrial injury and claiming that it was more severe than it actually was. During the course of the investigation the defendant was observed acting, moving, and appearing in a manner that was inconsistent with his claimed injuries. The defendant was video taped engaging in gold mining activity which sharply contrasted with how he was presenting to the doctors that were treating him.

Yolo County District Attorney Jeff Reisig stated, that "The cost of labor in California is directly impacted by workers' compensation insurance premiums. Those premiums are affected when workers' embellish their symptoms and attempt to get more benefits than they are otherwise entitled to receive. This verdict is the result of the efforts of Deputy District Attorney Carolyn Palumbo, Lt. Dan Stroski, the District Attorney's Insurance Fraud Unit and the State Compensation Insurance Fund.

The Honorable Steven Mock of the Yolo County Superior Court will sentence the defendant on March 23rd, 2012 at 8:30 AM. The defendant faces a maximum of eight years imprisonment, and a fine of one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000).

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