

Customer snaps picture of mouse on counter of Nipomo fast food restaurant

Sep 12, 2017

A picture shared on social media shows what appears to be a mouse on a counter at the Carl's Jr. restaurant in Nipomo on Sunday. Now, the San Luis Obispo County Health Department is investigating.

"It was just disgusting. I was shocked when I saw it," said Jennifer Colman, a Nipomo resident who took the picture of the mouse. "I was pointing it out to the associate and the employees and the manager and they just weren't really caring."



Carl's Jr. has decided to close the restaurant temporarily until they resolve this issue. The County Health inspector and pest control were seen at the establishment Monday morning.

"The owner is very compliant with this office at this time and they are working really hard. I think they are embarrassed and I think they are trying to take care of the problem," said Leslie Terry, San Luis Obispo County Environmental Health Services Supervisor.

Terry says the inspection Monday found no sign of a rodent infestation.

"Mistakes happen. Unfortunately, flies and mice can enter a facility and it's up to the operator to maintain cleanliness standards and take care of rodents when they occur," Terry said.

Carl's Jr.'s corporate office decided to close the restaurant Monday afternoon.

A representative for Carl's Jr. emailed KSBY this statement:

"We are aware of the image posted online. Carl's Jr. takes its commitment to food safety and quality seriously. Although the restaurant passed a health inspection this morning, we decided to

proactively close the restaurant today while further corrective action is taken to ensure this doesn't happen again. We apologize to our customers for any concern this has caused."

There's no word yet on when the restaurant may re-open, but county health officials say the establishment can continue to operate and people should not be concerned about eating there.

"They have been in good standing up until now and we will be following up with them next week as well," Terry said.

County health inspections show the establishment has passed recent inspections. However, in June 2017, the establishment received a violation warning for vermin droppings discovered under the shelves in a dry storage. No mice were reported to be found.