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## Arrests made as Modesto police investigate illegal tobacco, cannabis sales

Many of the products targeted in the crackdown were being packaged and sold as copycat versions of popular food and candy products

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**MODESTO, Calif.** — Officers are cracking down on smoke shops selling illegal tobacco and cannabis products in Modesto, according to the police department.

Video posted by the department to social media Thursday showed officers visiting six Modesto smoke shops and making multiple arrests.

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Police said the investigation stemmed from numerous complaints about the sale of cannabis-infused edibles and flavored tobacco products that targeted young people for their sales.

“This crackdown serves as a reminder of the dangers and criminal activities associated with the illegal sale of such products. Not only does it pose risks to public health and safety, but it also impacts the quality of life for our residents,” wrote a spokesperson for the police department.

Many of the products targeted in the crackdown were being packaged and sold as copycat versions of popular food and candy products.

Officials said compliance checks were conducted at the following locations:

- West Side Smoke Shop
- J’s Smoke Shop
- Smoke City
- Maze Smoke Shop
- Smoking Jay’s
- Smoke City

Building violations were located at all six locations, police said.

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Officials said the operation resulted in eight arrests. Over \$10,000 from illegal gambling activities was seized.

Officers confiscated thousands of dollars worth of illegal products, including flavored tobacco, marijuana, drug paraphernalia, cannabis-based products, psilocybin mushrooms and 10 gambling machines. Officers also found an illegal firearm, police said.

“The Modesto Police Department extends a huge thank you to our personnel from patrol, Area Command, Investigative Services Division, and to the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration for their dedication and hard work in ensuring the success of this operation,” a spokesperson posted to social media.

Police said additional, future operations are planned.

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