Emergency
Guidance
Document
November 6, 2003

Emergency Guidance on the Southern California Wildfires #2



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES

DTSC is one of six Boards and **Departments within** the California **Environmental** Protection Agency. DTSC's mission is to restore, protect and enhance the environment, to ensure public health, *environmental* quality and economic vitality, by regulating hazardous waste. conductingand overseeing cleanups, and developing and promotingpollution prevention.

State of California



California Environmental Protection Agency



Management Options for Expedited Collection of Hazardous Wastes from Burned Areas of Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, and Ventura Counties

Given the extent of the fire disaster in Southern California and the need for rapid recovery, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has prepared this fact sheet to guide people in the impacted areas in managing hazardous wastes separated from fire debris.

Note: Much of the hazardous materials in fire areas will be burned to the point where they are indistinguishable from other ash and fire debris. When hazardous materials are unidentifiable, all of the burned matter should be managed as general fire debris. Burned hazardous wastes that cannot be safely removed and separated should be managed in the same manner as other non-hazardous ash and fire debris. See the fact sheet entitled "DTSC Emergency Guidance on the Southern California Wildfires, Ash, Debris and other Hazardous Materials from Burned Structures", on the DTSC Internet site www.dtsc.ca.gov.

Hazardous Waste Expected

The following information is for hazardous wastes which are distinguishable and can be safely separated from ash and other fire debris:

<u>Residences:</u> Household hazardous wastes will be found in conditions ranging from fully burned to undamaged. Examples of these wastes include:

- Cathode ray tubes "CRTs" (picture tubes) from televisions and computer monitors
- · Paints, solvents, non-empty aerosol cans
- · Pesticides and fertilizers
- Batteries
- · Automotive supplies: used and unused oil, unburned fuels, antifreeze, lead acid batteries
- Asbestos siding, pipe insulation, and tiles
- · Lead-based paint chips and debris
- Mercury-containing thermometers, gauges, and switches

The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our web site at www.dtsc.ca.gov.

- Compressed gas cylinders: propane and LPG, oxygen, welding gases
- Ammunition and ammunition reloading supplies
- · Swimming pool chemicals
- · Cleaning supplies
- · Gasoline cans

<u>Small businesses:</u> Many small businesses are likely to have hazardous waste on the property. Condition of the wastes will range from fully burned to almost undamaged. Potential hazardous materials that may be associated with various businesses include:

- Automotive service and supply businesses fluids including used and new oil, antifreeze, solvents, paints and thinners, lead-acid storage batteries.
- Pool chemical supply Muriatic acid, oxidizers, chelating agents.
- Hardware and home and garden supply paints, paint thinners, adhesives and strippers, batteries, solvents, cleaning products, pool chemicals, pesticides and fertilizers.
- General Businesses CRTs from computers and security cameras, battery backup units, small electronic devices.
- · Sporting goods ammunition, reloading supplies.

<u>Industrial Businesses:</u> Larger businesses that have been impacted must be examined on an individual basis. For further information, contact William Beckman at (916) 324-8293.

General Waste Management

While removing debris, home and business owners should remove household appliances, automobile bodies, wiring, pipes, and other recyclable materials, if possible, to avoid filling disposal sites with large objects that can be recycled as scrap metal. Likewise, concrete and other inorganic wastes may be segregated and recycled. Contact your local solid waste agency for further information.

<u>Automobile bodies:</u> Recycle burned automobiles as scrap metal. If a vehicle is damaged, but not completely burned, the battery should be removed and

recycled at a battery shop or a household hazardous waste collection facility.

<u>Contractor Duties:</u> This fact sheet also applies to contractors. Firms clearing land under contract to homeowners or businesses have the same responsibilities for proper waste management under the law as the home and business owners.

<u>Identification Numbers:</u> Emergency generator identification numbers have been issued for each county involved in the fire disasters. Household hazardous waste collection agencies, other government agencies, and government contractors should use these numbers on a hazardous waste manifest for shipping hazardous wastes generated in the disaster. Note that private individuals or contractors to private individuals may not use these numbers.

Los Angeles	CAS031031019
Riverside	CAS031031033
San Diego	CAS031031037
San Bernardino	CAS031031036
Ventura	CAS031031056

Management Options for Hazardous Wastes Generated in Fire Areas

Indistinguishable Hazardous Materials and Materials that Cannot be Safely Separated from Other Ash and Fire Debris at Residential Properties and Small Businesses: Manage these materials along with the ash and other debris. They may be taken to a municipal solid waste landfill. Cover loads or use bins with lids to avoid generating dust.

Emergency Situations: Address unstable situations by removing or treating hazardous waste without any further authorization under the emergency response exemption from the usual hazardous waste permitting requirements (22 CCR 66270.1(c)(3)(A)). Under this exemption, released wastes may be cleaned up, wastes in damaged con-

tainers or tanks may be repackaged, and wastes that pose an imminent and substantial risk may be treated to remove the immediate hazard. Examples include, but are not limited to, pumping and repackaging wastes from fire damaged tanks and neutralizing acids or alkalis contained in damaged tanks and containers. In emergencies, no permit or other authorization is needed to take care of these wastes. Notification to DTSC or the CUPA is not required in these instances. Note that this exemption only covers actions necessary to address an imminent hazard and ends when the imminent hazard has been mitigated.

<u>Universal Waste</u>: Universal wastes expected to be found include non-automotive batteries, CRTs, fluorescent and street light-type lamps, mercury thermostats, and small electronic devices. No authorization is needed to collect, transport, and accumulate universal wastes. Household hazardous waste collection agencies may collect these materials and may set up collection routes and locations without any additional authorization. The household hazardous waste collection agency is acting as a "small quantity handler of universal waste" (22, CCR, 66273.10 et seq.). To dispose of universal wastes, call the appropriate household hazardous waste agency.

Authorization for Household Hazardous Waste Collections: Household hazardous wastes are collected and managed by local household hazardous waste agencies. Both permanent and temporary household hazardous waste collection facilities are authorized by the appropriate Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA), and can be authorized on an expedited basis if there is no previously authorized household hazardous waste collection facility in a particular area.

Special Household Hazardous Waste Programs: Household hazardous waste agencies can conduct mobile, door to door, and curbside collections in the affected areas when DTSC issues them a variance from hazardous waste transporter and facility requirements. DTSC will expedite variance approvals for affected areas as needed and as appropriate. Please call William Beckman at (916) 324-8293 from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm on weekdays. If you have an emergency situation after hours that must be handled

immediately, call the CUPA or contact the State Office of Emergency Services (OES) Warning Center at 1-800-852-7550 for 24-hour response; the warning center will pass the information on to DTSC as quickly as possible.

Small Business Hazardous Waste: State law allows most smaller businesses to bring hazardous waste to household hazardous waste collection facilities as "small quantity commercial sources." The wastes may be self-transported in small quantities, transported by a registered hazardous waste hauler, or transported by a collection agency that has received a variance from the hazardous waste transportation requirements. For a local agency to obtain such a variance, see "Special Household Hazardous Waste Programs" above.

Industrial Hazardous Waste: Industrial generators of hazardous waste have up to 90 days to store hazardous waste on site in tanks or containers prior to shipment off site. Contact the appropriate CUPA to request an extension to the allowed accumulation time. Imminent hazards may be addressed without authorization under the emergency response exemption – see "Emergency Situations" above. See the section below entitled "Contacts" to access a listing of CUPAs.

Emergency Permits: If special accumulation, treatment, or storage facilities must be established to respond to wastes from industrial businesses, DTSC is authorized to issue emergency hazardous waste facility permits over the telephone followed by the subsequent formal authorization process (22 CCR, 66270.61). For further information, please call William Beckman at (916) 324-8293 from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm on weekdays. If you have an emergency situation after hours, call the OES Warning Center at 1-800-852-7550 for 24-hour response; the warning center will pass the information on to DTSC as quickly as possible.

<u>DTSC Emergency Response Resources:</u> Upon request by a State or local agency, DTSC may dispatch emergency response contractors to address imminent hazards. Local agencies should follow procedures in place

for requesting emergency assistance in disaster situations, e.g. the county must contact the Office of Emergency Services (OES) Regional Emergency Operations Center (REOC) and request assistance.

Requests for Assistance: In general, all requests for assistance should be made through the county to the OES REOC to ensure that the highest priority requests are addressed first. Working through the county also increases the possibility that reimbursement is available for the activity. These requests will be forwarded to the appropriate State agency.

Contacts

DTSC Hazardous Waste Management:

William Beckman (916) 324-8293

Local household hazardous waste agencies:

Call the local solid waste or environmental health agency; or call your solid waste (garbage) pickup service.

Certified Unified Program Agencies:

http://www.calepa.ca.gov/CUPA/CUPAMail.htm

California Office of Emergency Services Warning Center: (800)852-7550

For more information, please contact the DTSC office nearest you, or call the regional Public and Business Liaisons at (800) 72TOXIC (1-800-728-6942).

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Glendale Office (818) 551-2830 1011 North Grandview Avenue Glendale, CA 91201-2205

Cypress Office (714) 484-5400 5796 Corporate Avenue Cypress, CA 90630-4732

or visit www.dtsc.ca.gov

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