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# Certified Unified Program Agency

Contra Costa Health  
HazMat Forum  
Presentation

September 11, 2025

The Unified Program was established by California Senate Bill 1082 (Calderon) in 1993.

A Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) is a local agency certified by CalEPA to implement and enforce six state hazardous waste and hazardous materials regulatory management programs



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## CALEPA

CalEPA oversees California's Unified Program. The program protects Californians from hazardous waste and hazardous materials by ensuring local regulatory agencies consistently apply statewide standards when they issue permits, conduct inspections, and engage in enforcement activities.

**Hazardous Waste Generator and Onsite Hazardous Waste Treatment (tiered permitting) Programs**

Hazardous Materials Release Response Plans and Inventories (Business Plan)

California Accidental Release Prevention (CalARP) Program

Underground Storage Tank (UST) Program

Aboveground Petroleum Storage Act (APSA)

California Uniform Fire Code: Hazardous Material Management Plans and Hazardous Materials Inventory Statements

## Six CUPA Programs



## Contra Costa County CUPA

20 Specialists and 1 Technician

NH1

7 CalARP Engineers

1 Pollution Prevention Specialist

4 Supervisors

1 Hazardous Waste Reduction Manager

1 Assistant Director

1 Director

3 Clerical Staff



## Elements of an Inspection

Conduct Routine Inspections at regular intervals

*Usually Unannounced*

An inspection report is generated after each inspection.

The inspection report will include any alleged violations

*Publicly available for review*

Process-Based Inspections

Documentation Review



# APSA PROGRAM

Regulate tank facilities that have an aggregate storage capacity of 1320 gallons or more of petroleum.

Petroleum means crude oil or a fraction thereof that is liquid at 60 degrees Fahrenheit.



# APSA INSPECTION HIGHLIGHTS

SPCC plan

Secondary  
Containment

Overfill  
Prevention

Tank Integrity  
Testing

Inspections

Training



# UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS

Regulate Underground Storage Tanks

Protects the public and environment from releases of petroleum and other hazardous substances from USTs.

Requires UST systems to install and maintain leak detection equipment.



# INSPECTIONS

Witness Annual Monitoring Certification

Witness Testing of Leak detection Equipment

Plan Check

Construction/Modification Permits



# CALARP AND INDUSTRIAL SAFETY ORDINANCES

## Administer

Administer the California Accidental Release Prevention Program and the Industrial Safety Ordinance

## Reduce

Goal is to reduce the likelihood of extremely hazardous materials releases.

## Audit and Inspect

Audit and inspect facilities once every three years and document the results of each audit/inspection

# HAZARDOUS MATERIALS BUSINESS PLAN

Businesses  
provide chemical  
inventory to  
CUPA

Site Map

Emergency  
Response Plan



# Hazardous Waste Generator Program



Over 2500 permitted facilities

Any business that generates any amount of hazardous waste

- Large Quantity Generators
- Small Quantity Generator
- Very Small quantity generators

Tiered Permitting- Treatment of hazardous waste

3 Household Hazardous Waste Facilities

# STORAGE AND HANDLING OF HAZARDOUS WASTE







## Hazardous Waste Storage

Containers maintained closed and in good condition

Container material compatible with material stored

Properly Labeled

Inspected Weekly

# HAZARDOUS WASTE LABELS

- The Words “Hazardous Waste”
- Contents of the Container
- Name and Address of the Generator
- Hazardous Properties of the Waste-  
Flammable, Corrosive, Toxic...
- Physical State- (Gas, Liquid, Solid)
- Accumulation Start Date



Storage times for hazardous waste depend on the quantity being stored and the rate at which it is generated. The following guidelines apply:

- Large Quantity Generators (LQG): Waste can be stored for up to 90 days.
- Small Quantity Generators (SQG): Waste may be stored for a maximum of 180 days.
- Very Small Quantity Generators (VSQG): Once 100 kg of waste has accumulated, the total accumulation time must not exceed 180 days.

# RECORDS



TRAINING



TANK INTEGRITY  
TESTING



CONTINGENCY  
PLAN



DISPOSAL RECORDS



WEEKLY/DAILY  
INSPECTIONS

# STANDARD WASTE STREAMS PRODUCED BY HAZARDOUS WASTE GENERATORS



# REFINERIES

Oil Waste

Waste sludges

Spent Catalyst

Solvents

Tank Bottoms

Benzene

Laboratory waste chemicals





## AUTOMOTIVE

Used Oil

Waste Antifreeze

Used oil Filters

Solvents- Parts washers











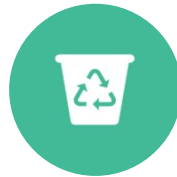
# SCHOOLS



LABORATORY WASTES-  
ACIDS/BASES



USED OIL



WASTE ANTIFREEZE



WASTE SPECIMENS



WASTE PAINT



VAPE PENS



USED PHOTO FIXER  
WASTE



Oxidizers  
Cabinet 42

Cabinet 43



Surplus Conc. Sodium Hydroxide

Surplus Stock Acid  
Cabinet 22

Weak and Dilute Acids

Cabinet 23





# RETAIL MARKETS

Over the counter medications  
Flammables-Lighting fluid, Perfumes  
Household Cleaning products  
Cosmetics  
Lotions









# MACHINE SHOP

Waste Oil

Water Soluble Coolant

Sludges with Metals

Bead Blast Media

Scrap Metals





# LABORATORIES

Acids/Bases

Solvents

Toxics

Flammables

Lab Packs





# PROGRESSIVE ENFORCEMENT

## Inspections

## Violations

- Minor
- Class II
- Class I

## Notice of Violation

## Formal Enforcement

- District Attorney
- Administrative Enforcement Order (AEO)



## INCIDENT RESPONSE

Respond to chemical incidents throughout the county

Type 1 Team

Mitigate Spills

Community Air Monitoring

Drug Labs

Biological Agent Detection

Chemical Detection

Radiation detection

# INCIDENT RESPONSE

6 Hazardous Materials Specialists available 24/7

1 CalARP Engineer

1 Supervisor

1 Manager



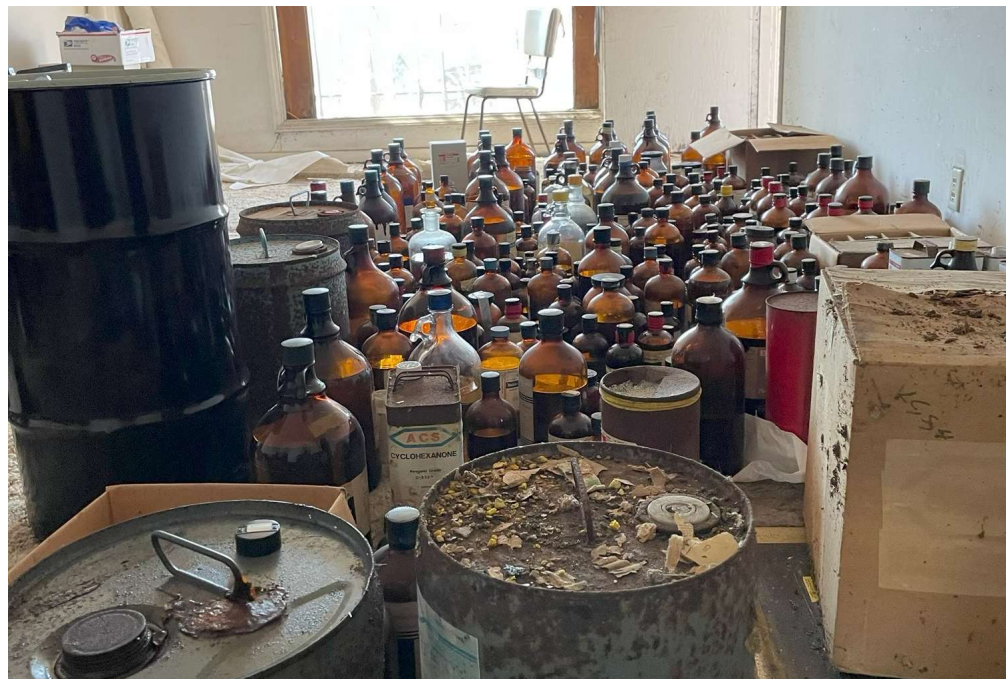








# CHEMICAL HAZARDS











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