



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Department of Toxic Substances Control

## News Release

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Deborah O. Raphael, Director

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **DTSC Executes Search Warrant on Scrap Metal Recycling Facility in Los Angeles County**

**SACRAMENTO, Calif.** – The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) executed a search warrant today at Panda International Trading Co., Inc., also known as Pan Metals Co., in Maywood in Los Angeles County.

The warrant is part of an ongoing investigation that began with a routine inspection by DTSC's Office of Criminal Investigations (OCI).

The facility, located at 3570 Fruitland Ave., is a scrap metal recycler that receives, handles, and stores cathode ray tubes and [universal waste](#), which can include old appliances. Cathode ray tubes were used in television and computer screens and contain lead and other metals. If components from both types of waste are not handled according to regulations, they could result in an uncontrolled release of hazardous waste into the environment.

The search warrant is based on evidence that black dust is being illegally released and deposited on the public sidewalk in front of the company. DTSC suspects this black dust contains high levels of metals. Investigators don't yet know how it is being generated.

DTSC will review the findings of the warrant and may follow up with criminal or civil action.

OCI received assistance from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, Los Angeles Port Police, Los Angeles Public Works, Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles County Fire Department Health Hazardous Material Division and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

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FOR GENERAL INQUIRIES: Contact the Department of Toxic Substances Control by phone at (800) 728-6942 or visit [www.dtsc.ca.gov](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov). To report illegal handling, discharge, or disposal of hazardous waste, call the Waste Alert Hotline at (800) 698-6942.

***The Mission of DTSC is to protect California's people and environment from harmful effects of toxic substances by restoring contaminated properties, identifying and promoting safer ingredients in consumer products, and ensuring stewardship through enforcement, regulation and pollution prevention.***