



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY NEWS RELEASE

Department of Toxic Substances Control

T - 29 - 05

For Immediate Release
May 4, 2005

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California Compliance School Celebrates 10 Years of Instruction

Sacramento ---Citing compliance of hazardous waste laws and regulations as a major component of protecting the environment and public health, Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) Director, B.B. Blevins today announced the ten year anniversary of the California Compliance School. "Ten years ago DTSC established a program to provide California facilities with instructions on achieving and maintaining compliance, exploring the profitability of pollution prevention, and understanding new laws and regulations. The California Compliance School is an innovative success and demonstrates that industry and the state can work together as environmental stewards."

Established in 1995, the California Compliance School (CCS) teaches the basics of complying with laws and regulations in an innovative, activity based method that helps make the confusing maze of hazardous waste law and regulations easier to understand.

"The credit for development of the program goes to DTSC staff, who recognized the need for a program. Their vision was for a "traffic school" for hazardous waste generators which would allow certain penalties to be forgiven by attendance," Blevins added.

CCS is a joint effort of the DTSC and the Bakersfield Community College. In ten years CCS has trained close to 10,000 people in their Hazardous Waste Generator and Underground Storage Tank modules. At least 12 classes are offered statewide annually to businesses and regulatory staff. The classes are "performance-based" (during the course of the class participants are required to meet a pre-determined set of objectives that allow students to demonstrate that they have acquired the skills to carry out individual environmental practices.) CCS is a self supporting program.

"Every year, we work to get the latest regulations, pollution prevention concepts, and legal updates to make sure they are included. These are not lecture based programs. Our goal was and is to take very complicated material and make it usable and understandable by allowing learners to apply the concepts to typical situations they may encounter in the workplace.

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Training is provided by expert instructors with industrial, regulatory, and hazardous waste knowledge and experience,” said Ann Boyce, California Compliance School Director.

Along with the Hazardous Waste Generator and Underground Storage Tank modules, CCS developed a training module and video for jewelry mart owners and workers in 2002. In 2004, CCS, in conjunction with DTSC, started development of a Vehicle Service Repair module and this year, under a grant from U.S EPA for mercury lamp outreach, CCS will develop a training module on spent florescent lamp management. DTSC is also working with CCS to update the Hazardous Waste Generator module to include pollution prevention, universal waste, and spent florescent lamp management.

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The Department of Toxic Substances Control’s mission is to restore, protect, and enhance the environment and ensure public health, environmental quality and economic vitality by regulating hazardous waste, conducting and overseeing cleanups, and developing and promoting pollution prevention.