



## DTSC oversees hazardous waste removal from failed startup

On January 18 and 19, 2014 DTSC's Emergency Response Unit removed almost 10,000 pounds of assorted hazardous waste from a residential back yard in densely populated north Long Beach.

The property, adjacent to an elementary school, contained the remains of a failed business venture – an attempt to create and market a chemical cocktail that was to be used as an additive in the natural gas industry. The waste is estimated to have been stored on site since the early 2000's.

DTSC, working jointly with US EPA, coordinated the removal action using its own funding and resources. The removal involved pumping, consolidating and repackaging 140 containers of corrosive liquid waste, using teams of about 15 contractors, all wearing chemical protective clothing, said George Baker, DTSC's emergency response coordinator.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency contributed by conducting a difficult and time consuming sampling and assessment of each container on site, using its own START contractors and overseen by two on-scene coordinators. The fieldwork portion of this project is estimated to cost \$47,000.00 and will be paid for out of the Emergency Reserve Account (State Superfund). DTSC Emergency Response found no evidence of leakage or off site migration.

This work took place over the Martin Luther King holiday weekend to minimize the potential for exposure to the community, and when students at Harte Elementary School were not in session. DTSC will initiate a cost recovery process to attempt to recover all costs.

This case is being pursued for prosecution by the US Attorney and by US EPA investigation staff.



This well-kept front yard belies the toxic threat located behind the house.



Crews assess the hazardous waste stored since the early 2000's.



Hazardous waste is prepared for transportation off site.