



Department of Toxic  
Substances Control



South Coast Air Quality  
Management District

## COMMUNITY NOTICE

February 2012

### Background

This notice provides information regarding a recent environmental/public health inspection and enforcement action at Titan Environmental, Inc. (Titan), a business located at 12432 Valley Blvd. in El Monte. The notice is provided to keep the nearby community informed of this matter. The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) received an anonymous complaint about Titan. Inspectors from DTSC and the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD), the local air pollution control agency, inspected the facility a number of times in February 2012 and found stored waste that was determined to contain asbestos. DTSC and AQMD have collaboratively taken aggressive precautionary steps to ensure that the waste material is safely covered and access to the site is restricted. AQMD has also conducted air monitoring for asbestos and it is believed that the site does not currently pose a hazard to the community.

### Steps Taken

Titan has been operating at this location adjacent to Mountain View High School since September of 2011 (please see aerial photo below). It is believed that Titan was operating illegally as a hazardous waste transporter and was improperly storing hazardous waste material containing asbestos without a permit from the DTSC. As a result of these inspections, Titan was ordered to: immediately stop accepting any deliveries of asbestos-containing waste materials, stop removing or transporting this material offsite, and ensure that all asbestos-containing materials are properly secured and handled.



Based on actions taken, it is not anticipated that asbestos fibers are presently being released into the air from the site. To ensure that, AQMD has set up air sampling equipment at three different locations

along the perimeter of the site to check for levels of airborne asbestos fibers. AQMD has taken 15 samples on five different days in February and the results have shown that there were NO asbestos fibers present in any of the 15 air samples. AQMD intends to conduct additional sampling during clean-up operations.

### **What is Asbestos?**

Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral that exists in certain rock formations. In the past, asbestos has been used in many household products and building materials because of its heat-resistant and structural properties. Asbestos containing material is not generally considered to be harmful unless it is disturbed and results in the release of asbestos fibers into the air where they can be inhaled or ingested. There is risk of exposure to asbestos when asbestos becomes friable. The term "friable" means that the asbestos is easily crumbled by hand, releasing fibers into the air. Asbestos is classified as a known carcinogen (cancer causing substance) by state and federal agencies, and is identified as a Toxic Air Contaminant by the California Air Resources Board (CARB). Exposure to asbestos may result in elevated risk of lung cancer and mesothelioma. Whether someone gets one of the diseases depends on many factors, including how much asbestos they were exposed to, and how long the exposure continued. To learn more about asbestos, please refer to the CARB webpage at:

<http://www.arb.ca.gov/toxics/Asbestos/general.htm> or to the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry webpage at <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tf.asp?id=29&tid=4>

### **How will the Site be cleaned up?**

DTSC and AQMD will oversee the assessment and cleanup activities at this site. Preliminary sampling was conducted at the site on February 11, 2012 by an independent Certified Asbestos Consultant under the supervision of the AQMD and DTSC to determine the best methods to safely clean up the site. Currently, the removal of asbestos is being planned. The community will be notified of the schedule for clean-up operations. DTSC and AQMD will take all necessary precautions to ensure that the clean-up is performed in the safest, most efficient and effective manner to safeguard the community.

### **How can Community Members Learn More?**

DTSC and AQMD will keep the community informed regarding the status of the assessment and site clean-up. If you would like to be added to the DTSC e-mail list, please send your e-mail address to Jacqueline Martinez at [jmartine@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:jmartine@dtsc.ca.gov).

If you have any questions about this fieldwork please contact the following individuals at DTSC and AQMD, respectively:

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