



News Release

T – 03 – 12

Deborah O. Raphael, Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 29, 2012

Contact: Jeanne Garcia
(818) 717-6573

jgarcia@dtsc.ca.gov

Sam Atwood
(909) 396-3456

satwood@aqmd.gov

Illegal Hazardous Waste Transporter Discovered Near High School in El Monte.

SACRAMENTO – The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) are taking aggressive steps to ensure the safety of an El Monte neighborhood after the discovery of an illegal hazardous waste transporter next to Mountain View High School.

Earlier this month, inspectors from DTSC and AQMD, conducted an unannounced inspection of Titan Environmental Inc. (Titan) located at 12432 Valley Blvd., El Monte after DTSC received an anonymous complaint about the possible illegal storage and transportation of asbestos-containing waste at the site. Titan has been operating at this location since September 2011.

State law prohibits hazardous waste management facilities to be located within 500 feet of a school. Companies that violate this law could face up to \$25,000 dollars a day in fines.

As a result of the inspection DTSC and AQMD has ordered Titan to:

- immediately stop accepting any deliveries of asbestos-containing waste materials
- stop removing or transporting this material offsite
- ensure that all asbestos-containing materials are properly secured and handled.

Titan has complied with all requirements and access to the site is restricted. DTSC and AQMD officials believe that the site does not currently pose a hazard to the community, and that no asbestos fibers are presently being released into the air from the site. However, as an added precautionary measure AQMD collected 15 air samples around the perimeter of the site during five days to check for levels of airborne asbestos fibers. No asbestos fibers were found in any of the samples. AQMD will conduct additional sampling once cleanup activities start at the site.

Additional Information

Asbestos is a naturally occurring fibrous mineral that exists in certain rock formations. In the past, asbestos was 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 swallowed. 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>

#

FOR GENERAL INQUIRIES: Contact the Department of Toxic Substances Control by phone at (800) 728-6942 or visit 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.