



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

NEWS RELEASE

Department of Toxic Substances Control

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For Immediate Release

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Former Corporate Officers to Pay \$800,000 to Settle Hazardous Waste Case

SACRAMENTO---The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has reached an \$800,000 settlement with three former officers of Special Devices, Incorporated, a Moorpark company that formerly operated at 16830 West Placerita Canyon Road in Newhall. The settlement, submitted last week for approval by the state's Superior Court in Los Angeles, stems from multiple hazardous waste violations revealed during a 1999 DTSC inspection of Special Devices' former Newhall facility.

In papers filed with the Court, DTSC alleged that Thomas F. Treinen, his son Thomas J. Treinen, and John M. Cuthbert were responsible for the illegal treatment, storage, and disposal of hazardous waste at Special Devices' Newhall facility over many years. DTSC also alleged that the Treinens and Cuthbert were responsible for the company's failure to determine if wastes sent to a municipal landfill were hazardous. The settlement requires the Treinens and Cuthbert to pay a total of \$775,000 in state civil penalties, plus \$25,000 in DTSC investigative costs. Previous court orders in 2001 required Special Devices to pay a \$1.5 million federal criminal fine, a \$500,000 state civil penalty, and DTSC investigative costs of \$40,500 for hazardous waste violations at the company's Newhall location.

"I am pleased with the settlement that DTSC reached with these three individuals," said Ed Lowry, DTSC's Director. "Together with the civil and criminal penalties previously assessed against the company where they worked, this outcome sends a clear message that violation of the state's hazardous waste management laws has severe consequences."

Special Devices used its Newhall facility from 1976 to 1999 to manufacture and design engineered pyrotechnic devices with applications in the automotive and aerospace industries.

In August 1999, DTSC inspected the facility, and discovered that Special Devices was illegally storing, treating, and disposing of hazardous waste without state or federal permits. These findings and subsequent inspections were the bases for the settlement with the Treinens and Cuthbert.

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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.

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"The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our Web-site at www.dtsc.ca.gov."