



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Department of Toxic Substances Control

NEWS RELEASE

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Maureen F. Gorsen, Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL ANNOUNCES \$9.9 MILLION SETTLEMENT WITH HOME DEPOT

SACRAMENTO – The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) announced a \$9.9 million dollar settlement with the national home improvement chain Home Depot for illegal hazardous waste storage and transportation violations found during a three-year investigation. DTSC engaged in a multi-jurisdictional, statewide prosecution team in 28 counties in tracking hazardous waste management practices and the state's fire code at California's Home Depot stores statewide.

"This is truly government working smarter by combining existing resources in a team effort to enforce all aspects of state laws and local ordinances to protect communities and roadways," DTSC Director Maureen F. Gorsen said. "Furthermore, the distribution of the settlement dollars will involve directing funds to provide environmental improvements to those communities where the violations occurred," Gorsen added.

The settlement includes \$7.25 million in civil penalties, \$1.3 million as partial payment of costs incurred by regulators involved with the investigations, and \$1.35 million to be applied to special environmental projects. Under the settlement, county district attorney offices and 13 county fire and environmental regulatory programs, the state Attorney General and the California Highway Patrol receive a portion of the penalty.

The statewide investigation was sparked in 2004 when the mixing of the contents of several two-gallon buckets of hazardous waste into a larger 55-gallon drum caused an explosion and fire, and evacuation of a store in Playa del Rey.

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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 the Department of Toxic Substances Control is to provide the highest level of safety, and to protect public health and the environment from toxic harm.