



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

NEWS RELEASE

Department of Toxic Substances Control

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CONTACT: Ron Baker
(916) 324-3142

Toxic Release Inventory Data Available

SACRAMENTO----The California Environmental Protection Agency's Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) today announced data from the 1998 Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) submitted to California are now available from DTSC. TRI is a federal program that requires annual filing of data quantifying chemical releases to the environment by selected categories of businesses. Forms are filed with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), with a copy sent to the designated State agency. Forms for each calendar year are due on July 1, of the following year. California has maintained TRI data since the inception of the program in 1987.

In the 1997 summary of TRI releases for all states, California had the second greatest number of facilities filing TRI data, yet ranked 21st in total releases and transfers.

The 1998 data are of particular interest because of the new business categories. The new categories are coal mining, metal mining, electric utilities that combust coal or oil, hazardous waste treatment and disposal facilities, wholesale bulk petroleum distributors, chemical wholesale distributors, and solvent recyclers.

The TRI releases in California have shown a gradual downward trend over the years, from 234 million pounds in 1987 to 69 million pounds in 1997. However, the releases reported for 1998 increased to 107 million pounds, a 52% increase, due to the filing from the new industry types. Without including the new categories of businesses, the 1998 releases are approximately the same as 1997.

These new categories reported 38 million pounds of chemicals released in 1998. Most of these releases are in the form of land disposal in the hazardous waste treatment and disposal and metal mining categories.

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Businesses meeting all three of the filing criteria must file forms containing information on the quantities of chemicals released to air, water, and land. The three filing criteria are:

- o The business must have greater than 10 employees.
- o The business must manufacture, process, or otherwise use above the annual threshold level of a listed chemical. Thresholds are 25,000 pounds for manufacture or process and 10,000 pounds for other use. More than 600 chemicals are listed.
- o The business must be on the list of designated Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) codes required to file. Originally, only manufacturers were required to file, followed by federal facilities in the early 1990s and seven additional categories in 1998.

To obtain TRI data, contact Ken Rydbrink at 916/322-2793. TRI data are also available on the DTSC Web site www.dtsc.ca.gov.

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DTSC is one of the six boards and departments within the California Environmental Protection Agency. DTSC's mission is to protect and enhance public health and the environment by regulating the management of hazardous waste and promoting reduction.