



HAZMAT NEWS

Compliance Matters



Alameda County Environmental Health Department Hazardous Materials Division / CUPA

2024 ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

State Surcharge Increase

The California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) required the Alameda County Environmental Health Department (ACEHD) to collect the increased State Surcharge for two fiscal years starting July 1, 2023 in the next fiscal year (July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025). Beginning **July 1, 2024**, you will see the increased State Surcharges on your annual Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) invoice in the amount of **\$104** (\$94 + \$10 increase from previous fiscal year). For more information, go to <https://calepa.ca.gov/unified-program-home/cupa-state-surcharges/>

Hazardous Materials Business Plan (HMBP) Program

Assembly Bill 1716 (AB1716) was approved by the Governor on September 22, 2023 and is effective on January 1, 2024. This bill amends the California Health and Safety Code (HSC), Chapter 6.95, Article I Business and Area Plans, Sections 25505 and 25507.

- Businesses are required to include loading areas, internal roads, storm and sewer drains, and emergency shutoffs on the site map **only if** they are present at the site (HSC §25505(a)(2)).
- HSC § 25507(b)(1) has been amended to clarify that the refrigerant gases (other than ammonia or flammable gas in a closed cooling system) are exempt if used for comfort cooling for **occupancies** or space cooling for computer rooms.
- HSC § 25507(b)(7) exempts liquid or gaseous fuel in fuel tanks on vehicles or motorized equipment as hazardous materials from business plan requirements. For the exemption to apply, the fuel tank shall be integral to the operation of the vehicle or motorized equipment (*pictured left*). Additional liquid or gaseous fuel stored in containers such as tanks, cylinder, or drums for vehicles or motorized equipment **are not** exempt (*pictured right*).



California Environmental Reporting System (CERS) Frequently Asked Questions

Reach out to our Environmental Health Technicians for CERS assistance! We are able to assist with an appointment in person at ACEHD 1131 Harbor Bay Parkway, Alameda, via phone call, or Microsoft Teams video call, weekdays 8:30AM to 5:00PM.

Q. I have recently acquired a business, and the site has an existing CERS ID. How do I access the site in CERS to submit my HMBP for my business?

A. Businesses can request a **Facility Transfer** in CERS for instances of a change of ownership/new operator. ACEHD will review and approve.

Q. Can I remove someone listed as a user under my facility in CERS who is no longer affiliated with my business?

A. Yes! **Lead Users** in CERS can make changes to and manage their business' user accounts (add, remove, and edit permissions). We recommend businesses have at least two Lead Users in the system in case of changes to leadership, and to remove any user that no longer should have or needs access.

REMINDER

You are required to notify ACEHD, 30 days prior, if your facility:

- Is no longer subject to CUPA requirements (within 30 days)
- Relocated
- Closed

Please contact DEHALAMEDACERS@acgov.org



Clean Water Program

Have you ever wondered where spilled oil in the parking lot goes? Or what happens to the detergent that runs down your driveway when you wash your service equipment? The used oil, detergents, and dirty water are carried through the municipal storm drains and into the nearest lake, stream, bay, or ocean.

In fact, nearly anything dumped or dropped on the ground can end up in the nearest body of water by entering the storm drain system. Urban runoff and stormwater pollution can come from any business, parking lot, neighborhood, industrial site, or construction site. This is significant because, unlike the water that goes down a sink or toilet in your home or business, stormwater pollution is untreated and flows directly into the nearest lake, stream, bay, or ocean.

As one of the regulatory agencies for Alameda County's Clean Water Program, ACEHD requires all businesses to establish and implement best management practices (BMPs) to reduce or eliminate pollution into the nearby creeks and storm drains.

Examples of BMPs that can be applied to any business are provided below:

- Clean up spilled materials with rags, absorbents, or a wet/dry vacuum (and then dispose of the cleaning materials properly). Do not allow the spills to accumulate or get washed into the storm drain system.
- Do not wash your cars or service vehicles outside. Take them to licensed car washes that drain into the sanitary sewer system.
- Do not wash your service equipment. Wash them in janitorial sinks that drain into the sanitary sewer system.
- Do not leave uncovered service equipment or supplies outside. Cover them, store them inside, or dispose of them properly to prevent corrosion and contaminated rainwater runoff from entering the storm drain system.
- Regularly inspect your outdoor waste storage containers and keep these areas clean. Do not allow loose trash or litter to enter the storm drain system.



Hand Sanitizer: A Hazardous Waste Something to Consider...

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, large volumes of alcohol-based hand sanitizer entered the marketplace, much of which may now be expiring and unsaleable.

The flammability of alcohol-based hand sanitizers means they should be disposed of as hazardous waste under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and regulated by the ACEHD, the CUPA.

Alcohol-based hand sanitizer should not be poured down the drain, dumped on the ground, or placed in the garbage or trash. Improper handling or disposal may result in civil or criminal penalties.

Households and qualifying small businesses may be able to utilize Alameda County's Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Program to properly dispose of excess hand sanitizer.

US EPA Guidance: <https://www.epa.gov/hw/how-dispose-and-recycle-alcohol-based-hand-sanitizer>

ACEHD HHW Program: <https://www.stopwaste.org>

Waste Tire Program

Did you know? California has more registered vehicles than any other state. More than 51 million reusable and waste tires are generated each year.

In 2021, 35% of waste tires were recycled¹. California's Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) has an informal target goal of 75%.

Waste tires can be recycled into crumb rubber or ground rubber for paving, infill, and other applications. When discarded or stockpiled, waste tires present hazards such as chemical release by off-gassing or leaching, fires, and even vector control issues.

¹California Waste Tire Market Report, 2021



Underground Storage Tank Program

Senate Bill 445 requires the permanent closure of single-walled tanks and piping by **December 31, 2025**. By January 1, 2026, facilities not in compliance may be "red-tagged", i.e., facilities not in compliance will not be allowed to use their USTs, and may be liable for civil penalties from \$500 up to \$5,000 per day, per violation, per tank.

UST Cleanup Fund Extension

Effective January 1, 2024, Assembly Bill 1115 extends the Cleanup Fund and companion programs, including Replacing, Removing or Upgrading (RUST) grants and loans, through January 1, 2035. UST owners and operators will also be able to use the UST Cleanup Fund as a financial responsibility mechanism until December 31, 2034.

For more information about the RUST program such as eligibility, please visit:



You can apply for RUST via mail or online at: <https://faast.waterboards.ca.gov>

For any UST questions, or to schedule work, please contact: DEHUST@acgov.org

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Comments or concerns? If there are differing opinions on the result of findings made during an inspection, and you cannot resolve the matter with the inspector to your satisfaction, we have a process for review. Please feel free to contact us for more information or suggestions that would improve our services to you.