

San Gabriel Valley CAER

Community
Awareness &
Emergency
Response

NEWSLETTER

February 2008

Produced and edited by:
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ABOUT SGV CAER

San Gabriel Valley Community Awareness and Emergency Response (SGV CAER) is a non-profit group of public emergency response agencies, local chambers of commerce and facilities and businesses that use, store, handle, produce or transport hazardous materials.

Our mission is to ensure the involvement of industry, public agencies, and the community in issues of emergency preparedness and public awareness. The CAER program is an effort to open communications between industry, public agencies, and the local community. Questions can be answered, concerns addressed, better planning can be done, and stronger relationships developed so that a common goal can be reached - a safer community.

UPCOMING GENERAL MEETING

SGV CAER is still trying to determine the interest in holding a 3 hour training session on emergency preparedness and contingency planning to be presented by BICEPP the Business and Industry Council for Emergency Planning and Preparedness. This training session would be a more detailed version of the general meeting that we held in August (see summary below). So far, around six people have expressed interest. We would like to have about 10 - 15 people lined up before we schedule the training session. Additionally, other topics are being explored.

If you would be interested in attending or have other potential topic ideas, please contact Robert Summers at rsummers@norac.com.

UPCOMING BOARD MEETING

San Gabriel Valley CAER will be holding its next board meeting at Veolia Environmental Services in Azusa on Thursday March 6 at 11:30 AM. Lunch will be provided. All interested individuals are welcome and encouraged to attend. Please RSVP to Robert Summers, SGV CAER President (RSummers@Norac.com or (626) 334-2908).

IS YOUR OSHA 300A FORM POSTED?

OSHA reminds employers to post the required **OSHA 300a form** - (not the OSHA 300 Log) - February 1 to April 30. The OSHA 300a form is a summary of the total number of job-related injuries and illnesses that occurred in the previous year.

The summary must list the total number of job-related injuries and illnesses that occurred in the year and were logged on the OSHA 300 form. Employment information about the annual average number of employees and total hours worked during the calendar year is also required to assist in calculating incidence rates.

Companies with no recordable injuries or illnesses in a year must post the OSHA 300a form with zeros on the total line. All establishment summaries must be certified by a company executive.

The OSHA 300a form must be displayed in a common area wherever notices to employees are usually posted. Employers must make a copy of the 300a summary available to employees who move from worksite to worksite, such as construction workers, and employees who do not report to any fixed establishment on a regular basis.

PROTECT YOUR INVESTMENT

Secure Facilities, Buildings, & Plants

While there is no way to predict what will happen or what your business's circumstances will be, there are things you can do in advance to help protect your physical assets.

- Install fire extinguishers and smoke detectors in appropriate places.
- Locate and make available building and site maps with critical utility and emergency routes clearly marked.
 - Plan to provide a copy to fire fighters or other first responders in the event of a disaster.
 - Keep copies of these documents with your emergency plan and other important documents in your Emergency Supply Kit.
- Consider if you could benefit from automatic fire sprinklers, alarm systems, closed circuit TV, access control, security guards or other security systems.
- Secure ingress and egress. Consider all the ways in which people, products, supplies and other things get into and leave your building or facility.

Plan for mail safety. The nation's battle against terrorism takes place on many fronts, including the mailrooms of U.S. companies. A properly informed and well-trained work force can overcome such threats.

- ❖ Teach employees to be able to quickly identify suspect packages and letters.
Warning signs include:
 - Misspelled words
 - No return address
 - Excessive use of tape
 - Strange discoloration or odor
- ❖ The United States Postal Service suggests that if a suspect letter or package is identified:
 - Don't open, smell, touch or taste
 - Immediately isolate suspect packages and letters
 - Move out of the area and don't let others in
 - Quickly wash with soap and water and remove contaminated clothing
 - Contact local law enforcement authorities
- ❖ Post emergency numbers for easy reference.



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- Identify what production machinery, computers, custom parts or other essential equipment is needed to keep the business open.
 - Plan how to replace or repair vital equipment if it is damaged or destroyed.
 - Identify more than one supplier who can replace or repair your equipment.
- Store extra supplies, materials and equipment for use in an emergency.
- Plan what you will do if your building, plant or store is not usable.
 - Consider if you can run the business from a different location or from your home.
 - Develop relationships with other companies to use their facilities in case a disaster makes your location unusable.
- Identify and comply with all local, state and federal codes and other safety regulations that apply to your business.
- Talk to your insurance provider about what impact any of these steps may have on your policy.

[HTTP://WWW.READY.GOV/BUSINESS/PROTECT/FACILITIES.HTML](http://www.ready.gov/business/protect/facilities.html)

SAFETY INFORMATION

ATM Safety Tips

- Utilize an ATM located inside an open business whenever possible.
- Avoid using street ATMs during night time hours.
- Always be aware of suspicious persons or vehicles in the area of the ATM. Trust your gut feeling. If things don't feel right, avoid that ATM.
- Have ATM card out of your wallet or purse before approaching the ATM.
- Don't write your ATM personal identification number on your card or keep the number in your wallet.
- When entering your personal identification number, try to keep the numbers from the view of others.
- Don't withdraw large amounts of cash.
- Secure your money at the ATM. Don't walk away with money in hand.
- Always take your receipt with you.
- If a robber demands your money, don't argue or fight with the suspect. Note the robber's description and give the robber the money.
- Get away as soon as it is safe to do so. Remember the money is not worth getting hurt over.

From the Seattle Police Department Website

BIENNIAL WASTE REPORTING

Biennial waste reports are due by March 1, 2008 for Large Quantity Generators (LQG) of hazardous waste and Hazardous Waste Treatment, Storage and Disposal Facilities (TSDFs). See:

http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/HazardousWaste/AnnualReports/Biennial_Reports.cfm for more information.

ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION

Universal Waste

Hazardous waste regulations designate a category of hazardous wastes called "Universal Waste." This category

includes many items, fluorescent lamps, cathode ray tubes, instruments that contain mercury, batteries, and others. Until recently some universal wastes could be disposed in the trash under some circumstances. However, now all universal wastes are banned from the trash.

The best brief description of California universal wastes is *Managing Universal Waste In California: Rules For Managing Some Common Wastes* by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control. This document clearly indicates which waste are universal wastes, and briefly describes how they should be disposed or recycled. It also addresses California's Universal Waste Rule.

Under California's Universal Waste Rule, households and conditionally exempt small quantity generators were allowed to dispose fluorescent lamps, batteries (not lead/acid batteries of the type used in autos), mercury thermostats, and electronic devices to the trash through February 8, 2006, unless the local trash companies or other agencies prohibit it. Large and small quantity handlers are required to ship their waste to either another handler, a universal waste transfer station, a recycling facility, or a disposal facility.

On February 9, 2004, regulations took effect in California that classified all discarded fluorescent lamps as hazardous waste. This includes even low mercury lamps marketed as "TCLP passing" or "TTLC passing." No one in California is allowed to discard their fluorescent lamps and batteries as non-hazardous solid waste (as ordinary trash).

Televisions and computer monitors cannot be disposed to the trash. Most televisions and computer monitors are currently considered hazardous waste when they have lived their life and are ready for recycling or disposal, including Cathode Ray Tube (CRT) Liquid Crystal Diode (LCD) and Plasma. These items may not be put in the trash.

Contact the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) office near you for more information. Also see the DTSC Web page on universal waste.

For a more information about the details of most universal wastes, contact the California Department of Toxic Substance Control. For information about electronic waste specifically, see the California Integrated Waste Management Board's e-waste Web site, Electronic Product Management, or contact ewaste@calepa.ca.gov.

- *Managing Universal Waste In California: Rules For Managing Some Common Wastes:*
http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/HazardousWaste/EWaste/upload/HWM_FS_UWR.pdf
- California's Universal Waste Rule:
http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/LawsRegsPolicies/Regs/upload/OE_ARA_REGS_UWR_FinalText.pdf
- universal waste
<http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/HazardousWaste/UniversalWaste/>
- Electronic Product Management:
<http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/Electronics/>
- See a list of all wastes banned from the trash:
<http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/HHW/Info/>

Information from California Integrated Waste Management Board
<http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/WPIE/HazSub/UniWaste.htm>

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HIGHWAY PACT TO STEM CALIFORNIA RUNOFF

Millions of gallons of pollution – the equivalent of 285 dump trucks a year – will be kept out of Southern California waters and off of the region's beaches due to an unprecedented agreement approved Jan. 18 by a federal court.

The agreement among the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), and Santa Monica Baykeeper means the state will dramatically reduce dangerous runoff from 1,000 miles of highway across Los Angeles and Ventura counties.

"Highways are the backbone of Southern California's economy, but they are also a major source of toxic pollution in our waterways," said David Beckman, director of NRDC's Coastal Water Quality Project and lead attorney for the plaintiffs. "Every rainstorm sends a toxic soup of oil, grease, lead and other dangerous ingredients that accumulate on our roads, rushing into Santa Monica Bay. This agreement means cleaner water and safer beaches for everyone in the region."

In an average year, according to the California Environmental Protection Agency, more than six million gallons of oil run into state waters from roads and sidewalks. Tests of some Caltrans drains have revealed contamination so dangerous that it qualifies as hazardous waste.

Currently, roads are designed to drain quickly, but not to filter the runoff, so contaminants on the pavement run directly into the region's waters. Contaminated runoff from freeways is the largest and most polluted part of overall stormwater runoff.

When fully implemented, the new arrangement, which settles a lawsuit brought by NRDC and Baykeeper in 1994, is expected to keep more than six million pounds of pollution out of area waters every year, including toxic zinc and lead and other debris. Toxic metals will be reduced by almost 24,000 pounds per year.

Caltrans will start cleaning up the runoff using innovative solutions before it reaches the ocean. Cleanup options include sand traps, catch basins and new porous pavement. Such methods have been tested in studies jointly administered by Caltrans and NRDC and have been shown to be highly effective. The agreement by the state to embrace these "best management practices" on new highways as well as existing ones is a first and has the potential to become a national model.

"Polluted runoff is the No. 1 water pollution problem in America," added Beckman. "Caltrans deserves credit for blazing a pathway that other agencies and cities should now follow."

Caltrans will examine 1,000 miles of freeway corridors in the region, completing pollution reduction blueprints for each corridor by 2011. Under the agreement Caltrans, which operates the largest freeway system in the country, will reduce runoff pollution from its freeways in Los Angeles and Ventura counties by 20 percent compared to 1994 levels.

NRDC is a national, nonprofit organization of scientists, lawyers and environmental specialists dedicated to protecting public health and the environment. The Santa Monica Baykeeper's mission is to protect and restore the Santa Monica Bay, San Pedro Bay and adjacent waters through enforcement, fieldwork, and community action.

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WORD'S TO LIVE BY

"People are like stained-glass windows. They sparkle and shine when the sun is out, but when the darkness sets in, their true beauty is revealed only if there is a light from within."

- Elizabeth Kubler-Ross

MORE INFO ABOUT SGV CAER

Interested in SGV CAER? For more information, please contact Robert Summers at (626) 334-2908 x104 or rsummer@norac.com.

