The New Look of HHMD

Personnel assigned to the Health Hazardous Materials Division (HHMD) are wearing a new Department uniform, including a new badge. Members of HHMD, which became part of the Department in 1990, once carried Fire Department Deputy Health Officer badges in a wallet or belt badge case. Now, these badges have been replaced with new ones that are more consistent in appearance with those worn by firefighters and other sworn personnel of the Department in a ceremony held at the Alhambra Urban Community Auditorium on August 2, 2016. The badge replacement however, does not preclude them from discharging the role of Deputy Health Officer.

This is a historic event for HHMD since by wearing their uniforms with their new badge, they now share the same dress code with the fire fighters and all uniformed personnel in the Department. The uniform imparts the professional look that engenders respect and compliance from the regulated business community while at the same time instilling pride and distinction among those who wear it.

HHMD will continue to project a positive image of the Fire Department, reinforcing its mission and core values while serving the public. Expect to see HHMD personnel in uniforms while conducting their inspections, in various Department’s service functions like staff promotion, public event participation, emergency response and when required by the Fire Chief.
Health and Wellness in the Workplace
By Camille Negrini

On August 8, 2016, the Health and Wellness Program of the Health Hazardous Materials Division (HHMD) was created by Chief Bill Jones to disseminate wellness information and coordinate group activities supporting the goal of improving health and fitness for staff and their families. Each district office has a Wellness Coordinator to let others know of the different activities of the wellness program for the upcoming month. It is expected that more individuals will participate in outdoor activities during break time and after office hours. Many scheduled wellness events are being planned, including: family-friendly outings, such as bike rides, trail hikes, marathon runs and walks; the Countywide Fitness Challenge; and Zumba classes in the Commerce headquarters.

We are excited about the HHMD “Weight Loss Challenge,” where anyone can join to lose weight through exercise and proper diet. Many have joined from different offices, and whomever lost the most weight in three months was declared the winner. Congratulations to Salette Amador & Esperanza Sanchez!

A study published by The Lancet in 2011 shows that if inactive people increased their physical activity by just 15 minutes per day, they could reduce their risk of death by 14%, reduced by 10% the risk of dying of cancer, and increase their life expectancy by three years. It can also help improve cholesterol levels, lower diabetes risk, decrease the risk of heart disease, control your weight, and improve your ability to do daily activities. Let’s be more conscious and responsible about our health, because, in the end, there is only one YOU.

Legislation 2017

Each year, the California CUPA Forum Board explores new legislative concepts or amendments. It works through the technical advisory groups, steering committees or UPA regional membership to come up with the concepts and to develop the appropriate amendment language. Following the approval by the CFB at the October meetings to move forward with specific concepts, a paper with suggested language and justification is developed and shared with other key stakeholders such as Cal EPA and affected boards, departments or offices. Without knowing whether the concepts and ideas listed below will ultimately turn into a bill, the following are being developed for introduction in the 2017 legislative calendar:

1. **Hazardous Waste** Counting that involves the exclusion of certain waste streams from being included in the determination if a facility will be classified as a small or large quantity generator. The idea is that certain waste, such as batteries in an auto repair shop, should not elevate the facility to be considered a large quantity generator with all the additional requirements.
2. **Aboveground Storage Tank (AST) amendments** developed by the AST technical advisory group.
3. **Rural County Support** to ensure small rural counties that do not have the business base to support staff necessary to perform

Unified Program Agency functions are supported with State general fund monies.

4. **Reporting Combustible Metals** is a direct result of the Maywood - Fruitland incident that occurred this summer, to require businesses that have combustible metals onsite to report those metals as part of the Business Plan and Inventory Program using fire code definitions of combustible metals.

5. **Closing Businesses**, originally for non-payment of permit fees, but also with cause. The proposal is to withhold, revoke or suspend permits and be able to require specific processes to be shut down (with due process that currently exists). The main challenge is a permit revocation process that leaves a gap if the business is unpermitted to begin with.

6. **Presumptive Language** for non-safety hazardous materials personnel to add presumptive language in worker compensation laws that should they develop specific diseases such as heart conditions or cancer that their condition is work related.

7. **Increased Penalties** for violations of the California Accidental Release Prevention (Cal ARP) program and the elimination of notice prior to taking specific enforcement actions.

**Continued on page 10...”**
2016 has been a most interesting year. It seems each section and most units are facing challenges and issues that reinforce the notion of staying true to our mission and goals. These include unique incidents, new laws and regulations, new fees, higher workloads, overdue inspections, CERS and other software complications, a new State performance review process, enforcement cases, and of course Aliso Canyon, Quemetco, Maywood, Paramount and others.

As the largest Unified Program Agency in the State, with a diverse industrial composition, how do we keep focused with all that is going on? One way is to remind ourselves of HHMD’s main focus and set priorities accordingly: protection of public health and the environment from accidental releases and improper handling, storage, transportation, and disposal of hazardous materials and wastes.

So what does this mean in the real world? First and foremost, we all got to do our job! I know that sounds a bit trite, but consider this. There is a purpose and reason for what we do and it may go beyond only making observations during inspections or other regulatory activities. It goes beyond responding to illegal hazardous waste disposals or releases. It goes beyond seeing the obvious violations and connecting everything together to what we are trying to accomplish. Observe the violations or activity, and see if there is a connection or impact to the public or environment. Does that air release lead to deposition in the nearby community? While in the past it was easier to say this is an AQMD issue”, it is also one that between our Department, the AQMD, Public Health and other departments or agencies, we need to come to terms on how we will address these issues in the future.

Could the inappropriate storage point to a possible fire or incompatible scenario? Will the lack of a “plan” lead to serious impacts to nearby communities? Is there a reason to not allow unpermitted or illegal operations to continue with business as usual?

At the same time, there have been several incidents where the paradigm of protecting public health has shifted and clean-up levels or sampling protocols that might have been permitted in the past are possibly no longer acceptable. This is being seen in the recent Paramount cases where with high chromium 6 air samples, the recent Maywood fire, and the clean-up and validation of private homes, and certainly in the work that was performed in the Exide lead and Aliso Canyon gas release.

As a Division, we need to continue to evolve and to master what is before us. We need to find new ways to make things work better; more efficiently, and with a cost benefit or risk based analysis behind our organizational efforts as our focus. The future continues to change in the hazardous materials arena. It will continue to change for many years to come and at the same time, this is why many of us will continue to find the work truly in the public’s interest. To that end, we need to revisit and double our efforts to learn the science behind what we do. What are the health threats and impacts of the businesses as well as the chemicals of concern?

In changing times, with the dynamics that are occurring today, we must not only be vigilant, but must keep updated on new requirements, new trends, and new efforts. The idea of focusing efforts on a risk based process is again coming up and more UPA’s are looking at this effort to give some assistance in prioritizing work. By focusing on the high risk or problematic facilities, it is envisioned that the lower risk, highly compliant facilities might be handled differently. At the same time, public policy continues to evolve and it is unknown how the new US EPA administration will impact California policies.

As one of our core values in the Department, I think it’s important for all of us to understand and to realize that there is an active, well informed, and vocal “community” and that these are the people we serve and who we work for. Do not forget that we need to hear their concerns and educate them, where we can, and do our job where we need to. As noted in the last several years, these communities often have been working behind the scenes for many years, putting forward their concerns and ideas. In some way, we all need to be more cognizant that these communities are out there and find ways to ensure the quality of life is the same throughout LA County.

Finally, we will soon be bringing another class of Hazardous Materials Specialists onboard. These new staff must hear the same positive and invigorating message from all of us: colleagues, supervisors, and assistant chiefs. It is possible that we may have as many as 8-10 vacancies from new or recent retirees soon after we see the new class onboard. The process to hire additional staff using the same exam list will occur as soon as possible.

The future is going to be a stimulating challenge and will continue to evolve. The HHMD has great talented people who will rise to whatever comes our way. I only ask that we all stay focused, informed, professional, and duty bound!

### HHMD in Review

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It’s Complicated: Permitting the Retail Industry
By Jojo Comandante

If legislation was that simple, then Senate Bill 423 would not have been amended eight times. It started out with nine pages and ended up with only one-and-a-half pages. SB 423 was created to address the complex issues surrounding the permitting of the retail industry, but it ended up requiring the Department of Toxic Substances and Control (DTSC) to form a Retail Waste Working Group to make recommendations by June 1, 2017, on the regulation and proper disposal of hazardous substances found in and around homes, or the so-called surplus household consumer product. SB 423 was chaptered into law on Sept. 28, 2016.

As a consumer, I appreciate local agencies that hold round-ups where the residents can get rid of their surplus household products that are considered hazardous waste. These days, there are round-ups for leftover paint, automotive fluids, pesticides, medicated shampoos and body washes, etc. But what about the retail stores that carry all these items?

There are many categories under surplus household consumer products that may contain hazardous substances. Aside from the usual pharmaceuticals, over-the-counter or prescription, there are kitchen cleaners, soaps, fragrances, pet products and paints/ coatings. In addition to the different types of household products, there are categories for the condition they are in. Leaking or damaged containers are totally different from expired or recalled products. What about empty containers that may still have some residue? What if the residue is coming from discarded commercial products, such as nicotine or warfarin? How do we regulate these products, containers and wastes? These are some of the questions that needed answers from the Retail Waste Working Group.

For expired/recalled products, some retailers contend that they should be allowed to return them to the manufacturer, using the reverse logistics program of the retail industry. Where would the point of generation be for this situation? Should the retailer sort its recalled products at the store or at the transfer station where all the other retailers send their expired products? We had a statewide case on a major retailer, and currently Los Angeles County considers the retail store as the point of generation.

Some retailers, on the other hand, do not challenge the issue on the point of generation, but “over-manage” their surplus waste. In order to avoid any errors, there are retail stores that are extra conservative in managing their waste. Even if some products could be resold at thrift shops, or otherwise be used, they manage these surplus waste as hazardous and have them removed by licensed hazardous waste haulers. The principle of waste minimization is put aside.

Of course, there is the issue of recycling. Some retailers send off their surplus fragrances and cosmetics to a recycling company in Ohio without a hazardous waste manifest. The Ohio recycling company claims to use surplus products to manufacture portable potty deodorizers. Should this practice be regulated?

There is also the “Pharma Take Back” program that some counties want to initiate. Studies have shown that some expired pharmaceuticals, particularly opioid drugs, end up in the hands of children. To avoid this, some retailers are willing to place drop off bins for the public to use for their expired pharmaceuticals. Again, should this be regulated?

Some Unified Program Agencies in California derive their permitting fees from the quantity of hazardous waste. That means a large quantity generator (LQG) would be charged a higher fee than a conditionally exempt small quantity generator (CESQG). Some retailers declare themselves as LQGs in CERS (California Environmental Reporting System), even if they are not. Should we impose the LQG requirements on these retailers and should they be permitted as LQGs?

These are sensitive issues and we have to wait for recommendations from the Retail Waste Working Group. This group is made up of representatives from reverse logistics companies, the retail industry association, major retailers and regulatory agencies. For more information, you could visit the DTSC retail industry webpage: https://www.dtsc.ca.gov/HazardousWaste/Retail_Industry/Index.cfm.

IN MEMORIAM

ZENaida Songco was with the Site Mitigation Unit of HHMD as Hazardous Materials Specialist III and worked for LA County for 25 years. She will be missed and never be forgotten.
The Health Hazardous Materials Division (HHMD) reached yet another enforcement milestone with its 400th, Administrative Enforcement Order (AEO) filed this year. Staff from the different sections collaborated with one another and jointly worked the cases. The violations were observed by inspectors, investigators and first responders while conducting routine inspections or responding to hazardous materials spills. In addition to remediating the incidents or spills, formal enforcement was taken and compliance was reached. A total of 49 AEOs were filed during fiscal year 2015 to 2016.

The following are example of cases settled this past fiscal year:

- **Accurate Plating, Co., Inc., in Los Angeles** was fined for failure to maintain a facility to prevent a release, failure to treat chrome via an approved automated method, failure to provide a Tank System Assessment, failure to submit an updated Financial Assurance, Closure Cost Adjustment and a Source Reduction Plan. Case submitted by A. Ng and S. Dela Rea.

- **AIMM Automotive in Pomona** was fined for failure to electronically submit a Business Plan and Chemical Inventory, and failure to make a waste determination for proper disposal. Case submitted by A. De Silva.

- **Artesia Ice in Artesia** was fined for failure to submit the 5-year RMP update, failure to prepare written operating procedures, failure to ensure proper employee training, failure to implement procedures to maintain the mechanical integrity, failure to perform inspections and testing of equipment, and for failure to conduct a 3-year compliance audit. Case submitted by F. Khaledan.

- **Auto-Chlor Systems, in Los Angeles, Van Nuys and Downey** was fined for failure to operate a facility to prevent a release, failure to submit notification prior to treating HW, failure to provide a Tank System Assessment, and operating without permits. Case submitted by M. Mekasha and J. McCarron.

- **A 2 Z Plating, Inc., and B & C Plating, Inc. in Los Angeles** were fined for failure to maintain/operate a facility to prevent a release, and for not meeting waste tank system secondary containment requirements. Cases submitted by E. Bald.

- **Bachem Americas, Inc., in Torrance** was fined for not meeting hazardous waste Tank System Standards. Case submitted by P. Zenerosa.

- **Barrera’s Meat Company in Commerce** was fined for failure to implement the findings on the Process Hazard Analysis. Case submitted by M. Whitehead.

- **Bay Valley Foods, Inc., in Industry** was fined for improper disposal of HW and for failure to report the release. Case submitted by J. Stoute.

- **Brite Plating Co., Inc., in Los Angeles** was fined for not meeting HW secondary containment requirements, and for treating Chromium VI with an unauthorized chemical. Case submitted by S. Dela Rea and E. Bald.

- **Cal State University Northridge in Northridge** was fined for failure to immediately report a release, and for insufficient employee training. Case submitted by J. McCarron.

- **City Fibers, Inc., in Los Angeles** was fined for failure to maintain/operate a facility to prevent a release, and for handling appliances without a certification as a Certified Appliance Recycler. Case submitted by S. Phan and E. Bald.

- **County of Los Angeles Sheriff’s Department, in Palmdale** was fined for failure to provide a Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plan. Case submitted by S. Brodsy.

- **Flamemaster Corp., in Pacoima** was fined for exceeding HW accumulation periods, and failure to label containers. Case submitted by D. Yniguez.

- **Greenwood Shell in Montebello** was fined for exceeding HW accumulation periods, and failure to maintain disposal records. Case submitted by G. To.

- **Hacienda La Puente School District, in Industry** was fined for failure to maintain a facility to prevent a release, and failure to submit a Business Plan and Chemical Inventory. Case submitted by J. Rooney.

- **Hawker Pacific Aerospace in Sun Valley** was fined for failure to provide a tank system assessment. Case submitted by S. Brodsy.

- **Hermetic Seal Corp., in Rosemead** was fined for treating hazardous waste without authorization. Case submitted by C. Van Rensburg and E. Bald.

- **Joe’s Auto Body in Pacoima** was fined for exceeding HW accumulation periods. Case submitted by D. Yniguez.

- **Long Beach BMW in Signal Hill** was fined for the improper disposal of HW and failure to manage empty containers. Case submitted by J. McCarron.

- **Los Angeles Unified School District in Sun Valley** was fined for failure to complete PBR site closure activities. Case submitted by S. Brodsy.

- **L & Y Foods, Inc., in Monterey Park** was fined for failure to electronically submit a hazardous material business plan & inventory. Case submitted by A. Ng.

- **Material Logistics & Services LLC., in Carson** was fined for failure to report a release of a hazardous material, failure to submit the RMP update, and for failure to update and relavitate a hazard review. Case submitted by F. Khaledan.

- **MM Lopez Energy, LLC, in Sylmar** was fined for failure to maintain/operate a facility to prevent a release. Case submitted by J. McCarron.

- **Palmdale Water District in Palmdale** was fined for failure to provide a Spill Prevention and Countermeasure Control Plan. Case submitted by S. Brodsy.

- **Pomona Scrap Metal, Inc., in Pomona** was fined for failure to maintain/operate a facility to prevent a release. Case submitted by J. McCarron.
The Fruitland Incident occurred on June 14, 2016 at 0231 hours when this Department responded to a 3rd alarm commercial building fire located at 3570 Fruitland Avenue in the City of Maywood. Approximately 30 minutes into the fire, small “firework type of explosions” were observed. These small explosions continued for approximately one hour leading to a larger explosion traveling several hundred feet into the air. In the course of investigation, it was determined that 10,000 pounds of magnesium was stored on the site. Superheated magnesium, with the addition of fire suppression water, would account for the explosions observed. The fire burned Panda International Trading (PIT) and a second business operating on the site, Sokor Metals. PIT is a scrap metal yard and Sokor Metals is a precious metals recovery business that extracts metals from electronic circuit boards. An evacuation order was issued on the north side of 52nd Street from Everett Avenue to Maywood Avenue, where a total of 150 people were evacuated. A voluntary evacuation occurred on the South side of 52nd Street and surrounding areas. An evacuation center was established by the Red Cross at the Maywood YMCA. The fire was extinguished on June 15 at approximately 1530 hours. A joint decision was made with the Department of Public Health (DPH) and Health Hazardous Materials Division (HHMD), based on information supplied by South Coast Air Quality Management District and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), to allow the affected families from the south side of 52nd Street and surrounding areas to return home. The north side of 52nd Street remained evacuated. On June 16, 2016, the EPA received laboratory analyses confirming hazardous waste levels in ash collected from residential properties on the north side of 52nd Street. This Department’s Operations Bureau transferred command to a unified command established with the Department of Public Health, Health Hazardous Materials Division (HHMD), and the EPA. Health Haz Mat investigators, in conjunction with Department of Toxic Substance Control, investigated the above mentioned facilities for possible hazardous materials/waste violations. HHMD attended media briefings as well as several community outreach events to educate the public as to the heavy metals of concern. Maps were used to illustrate the wind direction during the incident to provide a better understanding of the contamination in the neighborhood. A community information center was established for the residents to obtain valuable updates and to raise any questions of concerns. It was paramount to establish cleanup action levels that ensured all residents returned to clean a safe environment. An Ash Clean Up Assessment Team (ACAT) was created with representatives from DPH, HHMD and the US Coast Guard team members representing EPA. The team conducted a walk through with the residents before and after cleanup of the outdoors to show the residents what was to be done and ultimately obtain a sign off from the resident and/or property owner. The ACAT was extremely meticulous to ensure all outdoor resident areas were cleaned to a high standard. Hazardous waste cleanup contractors were utilized to remove all outdoor ash at the residents. A series of sophisticated air tests were conducted to determine if a resident warranted a detail cleaning to remove any metal contamination that may have entered the residence from blown out or open windows. A confirmatory Micro Vacuum test was utilized to ensure no contamination existed that could impact infants. The coordination to gain access to the 43 residents proved to be very challenging and on July 11th, the Health Haz Mat Division worked with their partners to complete and repopulate the evacuated residents safely into their homes. A case was referred to the District Attorney due to Sokor Metals operating without a permit and for illegally treating hazardous waste. The Health Hazardous Materials Division is also seeking legislation to include Magnesium as a reportable hazardous material due to the water reactive nature that magnesium possesses once it is superheated. On July 19th the Los Angeles County Fire Department Operations, the Health Hazardous Materials Division, the Department of Public Health and the Office of Emergency Management were acknowledged by Supervisor Solis and the Board of Supervisors for their performance on the Fruitland Magnesium Fire Incident.
Deadly Chemicals in the Workplace
By Dan Zenarosa

One of the greatest fears in conducting inspection is dealing with highly toxic and deadly chemicals. The truth is, there are chemicals that can kill or cause serious health problems within minutes of exposure, if not recognized and managed properly. Thus, it is important to know the toxicology of these chemicals so that we can protect ourselves and approach them with caution and confidence. Some of these toxic chemicals are chlorine gas, anhydrous ammonia, hydrogen cyanide, hydrogen sulfide and carbon monoxide.

CHLORINE: In the United States, chlorine is the most common inhalational irritant. It is used mostly in water disinfection, purification and sewage treatment, food processing, textile industry, and manufacturing of plastics. It is a non-combustible, greenish-yellow gas with a pungent, irritating odor that is heavier than air. When inhaled, chlorine gas reacts with the moist mucosal surfaces of the airways forming hypochlorous acid and hydrochloric acid. These acids destroy the tissues on both the large and small airways causing difficulty of breathing. As the hair cells in the bronchial mucosa are destroyed the accumulated mucus secretions backflow into the air spaces in the lungs resulting in pulmonary edema. Death from chlorine toxicity is caused by asphyxiation by drowning in your own fluid. Chronic exposure, however, can cause acne, chest pain, cough and sore throat.

AMMONIA: It is a colorless gas with a sharp, pungent, irritating odor. Most of the manufactured ammonia (80%) is used as fertilizers (nitrates) in agriculture. They are also used as explosives in mining, in the textile industry, pesticides, and as a refrigerant. Ammonia is corrosive as it reacts with water to form ammonium hydroxide. Ammonium hydroxide causes liquefaction necrosis of the tissue (liquidation of the fatty tissue by hydrolysis), resulting in cell destruction and death. It is extremely irritating to the eyes, throat and breathing passages. It extracts water from the cells and initiates an inflammatory response which further damages the surrounding tissues. Death is caused by accumulation of fluid in the lungs or pulmonary edema similar to the damage caused by chlorine gas. Chronic exposure may result in elevated risk for chronic bronchitis and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

CYANIDE: It exists in gaseous, liquid and solid forms, and is present in a number of compounds, such as hydrogen cyanide, sodium cyanide and potassium cyanide. It is used in jewelry manufacturing, pesticides, leather tanning, plating and plastics manufacturing. The toxic effects of the cyanide ion in humans and animals are believed to result from inactivation of the cytochrome oxidase enzyme, which catalyzes the transfer of electrons to oxygen necessary for the formation of water and energy. By blocking this enzyme, the cell is deprived of oxygen, resulting in their death. Chronic cyanide exposure is linked to demyelination of the brain and spinal cord, damage to the optic nerve, movement incoordination, goiter and depressed thyroid function.

HYDROGEN SULFIDE: It is the second leading cause of toxin-related death (after carbon monoxide) in the workplace. It is a flammable, colorless gas with a sweet taste and characteristic odor of rotten eggs. It is used in the pulp and paper industry, leather tanning, chemical and dye manufacturing, metal plating and the mining industry. Death occurring after acute exposure to hydrogen sulfide appears to be the result of respiratory failure or arrest. Death is due to the inactivation of the cytochrome oxidase enzyme similar to cyanide toxicity.

CARBON MONOXIDE: Carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning is the leading cause of morbidity and mortality due to poisoning in the United States. It has been estimated that carbon monoxide poisoning results in over 50,000 emergency room visits per year in the United States. Carbon monoxide is known as the silent killer since it has no color or smell and is non-irritating. Environmental carbon monoxide is produced by incomplete combustion of any carbon containing fuel (coal, petroleum, peat, natural gas). It is used in foundries, coal and gas-fueled power plants, petrochemical plants and petroleum refineries. They can be used to synthesize many compounds, such as polycarbonates, acetic acid and polyketones. CO toxicity causes impaired oxygen delivery and utilization at the cellular level. Hemoglobin has a higher affinity for CO compared to oxygen. Death primarily results from cellular hypoxia caused by impairment of oxygen delivery. The principal mechanism of many adverse effects of carbon monoxide exposure is carboxyhemoglobin-induced tissue hypoxia. Thus, tissues with high oxygen requirements, like the brain and the heart, are the most sensitive to carbon monoxide-induced hypoxia. The long-term effects of breathing in carbon monoxide can affect memory, brain function, behavior and cognition.

There are other deadly chemicals that one can encounter in the workplace. In order to avoid any life-threatening incident in our work as inspectors, we should follow the wise advice of Sun Tzu, a Chinese military strategist of ancient China who said, “Deep knowledge is to be aware of disturbance before disturbance, to be aware of danger before danger, to be aware of destruction before destruction, to be aware of calamity before calamity.” Therefore, to conquer fear, we have to increase our awareness.
Over the last several years, the CUPA Form Board (CFB) has funded state wide initiatives and projects through the CUPA Environmental Protection Trust Fund. These monies are set aside from typically statewide case settlements for individual Unified Program Agency (UPA) grants, or statewide initiatives or projects managed by the CFB. The money is managed by five CFB Trustees under a structure defined by Trust Regulations. The trust projects and the available funding allows the CFB to hire outside consultants and vendors to perform the work and take the burden off UPA staff to perform significant amount of work. Following is an update of the projects that are actively in progress or anticipated in the near future.

Institutional Manual
There were recent changes in the instrumentation manual (aka the “Hazmat Field Screening Equipment Manual”) and it is available to anyone through the CUPA Form Board Training Center website. This invaluable tool is a living document that is hopefully being utilized by first responders and other response entities throughout the State. In addition to the manual, the CFB has developed an application that gives immediate access to tablets, phones and computers. For more information and to download the app, go to: https://calcupa.org/

Hazmat Professional Registration
The CFB has embarked on an initiative to explore the possibility of a registration to recognize professionals in the field of hazardous materials/waste. This project envisions a process where applicants can receive registration after a certain amount of time doing the job and by a comprehensive exam. Another part of this initiative is a program element specific certification that will entail meeting training requirements but no test requirements. For example, a hazardous waste certificate can be issued for individuals who complete specific curriculum that is currently being developed in the CUPA conference. This includes beginning, intermediate, and advanced hazardous waste classes, as well as other classes for some of the sub-specialties within the hazardous waste field. Once certified, individuals can be recognized as having a certain level of proficiency to do work anywhere in the State or simply as a professional recognition. This optional program will also examine continuing education requirements for the registration and/or certification. It is expected that within the next 3 to 6 months, various workshops will be held throughout the State to develop some of these components and to then move forward in the next legislative year with required legislation.

Compliance Manual
Another project is the production of a statewide hazardous materials or unified program manual that will focus on small to medium business assistance. This compliance manual will give an overview of the specific requirements within each program element. Inspector will be able to refer to this manual during inspections for operators and owners to read for further information on the various regulatory requirements. This compliance manual will be in an electronic format and will be available for any unified program agency to post on their website after putting their own seal or introductions for their business clientele.

CalARP Reference Materials
Recently the California Accidental Release Prevention (Cal-ARP) program, Technical Advisory Group identified that there were a number of reference materials necessary for UPA Cal-ARP staff throughout the State to be proficient in doing their daily tasks. These codes and standards are available online and are quite expensive for individual agencies to procure on an annual basis. Other UPA staff would also benefit by having access to current/archived codes and standards that are referenced in regulations/statutes such as NFPA, California Building, Mechanical, and Fire Codes, etc., for various UPA programs. The CFB, through the Trust, has agreed to fund an electronic version of these reference materials and will make it available to any UPA through a password encrypted web link for free. The vendor has also agreed to provide web based training for users upon request. This model of purchasing a product for use by UPA staff throughout the State saves everyone time, money and resources in not having to procure and post the information on their own individual websites. After one year, the CFB will evaluate the use of these reference materials and decide whether it will continue to fund the availability of these reference materials for all UPA staff.

Video
The CFB has recently posted a request for proposal to generate six short instructional videos that can be utilized by any UPA and posted on their website for business assistance. These short, 3-5 minute videos, will instruct small businesses on how to comply with a number of program elements (for example, hazardous waste, above and underground storage tanks, and hazardous materials reporting). The CFB will be contracting with a vendor to produce those videos professionally and will be working with the CUPA Forum Training Committee to develop the curriculum and script. The idea is that the videos will be available to any UPA. Before posting on their websites, UPAs will be able to put their own introductions, seals or identifiers and will be able to point businesses to their own websites when inspectors feel it would be helpful. It is hoped that these short instructional videos will have a universal message that can be applied across the State for business operator compliance assistance. This will also give all UPAs access to the videos without contracting these services themselves.

Hazardous Materials Disaster Emergency Assistance Plan
This CFB project funded through the Trust has been under development for several years. During the last few years, discussions of the plan has led to several smaller jurisdictions to request hazardous materials damage and hazmat assessment teams to be deployed at several major fires in northern California. The idea of using UPA staff to assist following major disasters, including but not limited to, fires, earthquakes, floods, tsunami or civil unrest, is starting to be recognized by the various State entities involved with disaster coordination, including the Office of Emergency Services and Cal EPA. The concept is that requesting agencies will have a procedure and know what to expect and how to request resources following disasters. Assisting agencies will have a level of training and ability for their staff to respond to these disasters. The plan includes a full discussion on how to obtain those resources as well as standard operating procedures, forms, and training recommendations.

Following finalization of the plan, the CFB will embark on workshops to explain how the plan can be utilized and implemented.

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Big Changes in Prevention Program Elements of Risk Management Plans for Refineries
By Michael Whitehead

Two executive summaries by President Barack Obama and Governor Jerry Brown detail changes to existing regulations that give authority to Unified Program Agencies (UPA) in California and the United States Environmental Protection Agency, ensuring that facilities have adequate risk management plans to prevent catastrophic releases of highly hazardous materials into communities and the environment. In October 2012, Governor Brown ordered the Interagency Working Group on Refinery Safety to amend existing regulations with the following intentions:

- Require coordination of inspections and enforcement among agencies that regulate refineries;
- Improve emergency planning and response procedures among first responders;
- Promote best practices in technology and a culture of safety in the refinery accidental release prevention program; and
- Establish ways of communication between refineries and the community about the hazards of the refinery and the emergency action plan for protecting the community against accidental releases.

A similar order was given on August 1, 2013, by President Barack Obama. His Executive Order 13650 gave responsibility to the Secretary of Homeland Security, Administrator of Environmental Protection Agency and the Secretary of Labor, Department of Agriculture, to amend existing regulations for improving safety and security at facilities that store and handle highly hazardous materials. These three offices have depended upon the specialized knowledge and experience of working groups to authorize changes to existing federal regulations for the following improvements: coordination between regulatory agencies, the technologies and procedures of existing risk management prevention programs. These working groups address regulatory amendments, taking into consideration the comments of agencies, communities, researchers of best technologies and refinery operators.

The changes by the Governor’s working group will be significant on the California Accidental Release Prevention Program and the Department of Industrial Regulations (DIR).

Division of Occupational Safety & Health. First of all, the new process safety requirements for refineries that are being added to the applicable California Code of Regulations give UPA and DIR the authority to require the development and implementation of several new elements with regards to refinery processes and safety culture of refinery employees and managers. The proposed new process safety requirements are nearly identical for consistency and oversight from these agencies:

- Article 6.5, Program 4 Prevention Program, Chapter 4.5 of California Accidental Release Prevention Program, Division 2, Office of Emergency Services, Title 19 Public Safety Section 5189.1, Process Safety Management for Refineries in Article 109, Hazardous Substances and Processes, Group 16, Control of Hazardous Substances, Subchapter 7, General Industry Safety Orders, Chapter 4, Division of Industrial Safety, Division 1, Department of Industrial Relations, Title 8, Industrial Relations

The principal difference between these new regulations is in their respective purposes:

- Article 6.5 ensures for the protection of public health and the environment;
- Section 5189.1 ensures for the protection of workers at the refinery. This new provision addresses the above intentions of Governor Brown’s Interagency Working Group on Refinery Safety to improve safety in the refineries for the overall good of workers and the public. The changes are anticipated to be adopted in mid-2017 by the California Office of Administrative Law.

The complexities of these new provisions have prompted the California Unified Program Agency Forum, Department of Industrial Relations and California Environmental Protection Agency to prepare their regulatory inspectors through what will be intensive training programs.

**RETIREES**

Congratulations & best wishes to all our Retirees! Thank you for your valuable service to the people of Los Angeles County!

Stan Townsend AC David Baltazar Alphonso Berumen Mashid Harrell Beatriz Martinez

We will miss you all!!
The average household in Los Angeles County may not generate a large quantity of hazardous waste, electronic waste, universal waste or medical waste, but collectively the county’s millions of residents generate an enormous amount of the waste mentioned. These may be listed as State waste or possess toxic, corrosive, reactive or ignitable characteristics which are commonly found in a wide variety of household products. In response to the threat created by this waste, the County Sanitation District sponsored one of the first Temporary Household Hazardous Waste Collection (TTHWC) events in 1988 at a landfill in Calabasas. The concept was simple and great. Residents could bring their waste to the temporary collection event and properly dispose of the household hazardous waste in an easy and convenient way at no cost to the resident.

Today, TTHWC events are routinely scheduled at various locations throughout the county and collect hundreds of loads of waste each day from participant. A typical TTHWC event accepts motor oil, paint, fertilizers, pesticides, used batteries, light bulbs, aerosol cans, cleaners, photographic and swimming pool chemicals, mercury thermometers, sharps, prescriptions, old televisions, monitors and computers. To prepare for disposal, residents are advised to segregate incompatible chemicals to avoid chemical reactions; ensure that containers are not leaking and have tight fitting lids; label materials that are unmarked; and place items in a box or container in the trunk of the vehicle. Upon arrival, the resident remains in their vehicle while collection workers efficiently remove the household hazardous waste or electronic waste. Fifteen gallons or 125 pounds of hazardous waste is the limit for each trip.

If not for this collection event, this waste might have been disposed of in the environment or ended up in landfills. In order to assure the safety at these events and verify compliance with state requirements, sponsor such as the County Sanitation Districts submits documentation to the Department’s Health Hazardous Materials Division (HHMD) or the responsible agency for review and approval prior to each event. The sponsor also notifies the public, hire an environmental contractor to handle and collect the waste, and oversee the operations at the collection events. Ammunition, explosives, radioactive waste, trash, tires, large bulky items, appliances and business-generated hazardous waste are not accepted at TTHWC events. However, businesses that generate small quantities (conditionally exempt small quantity generators) of hazardous waste may make an appointment to use four permanent hazardous waste collection facilities located in San Pedro, East Los Angeles, Playa del Rey and Sun Valley, by calling 213-485-2260 to dispose of their hazardous waste.

To find locations, specific types of waste accepted, operating hours and other information regarding household hazardous waste disposal, please visit http://dpw.lacounty.gov/epd/cleanla/. You can also call 1-888-CLEAN-LA, HHMD at 323-890-4045, or the City of Los Angeles at 213-485-2260.

8. General Duty Clause for Chapter 6.95, Article 1 to cover incidents that occur at facilities with significant public or environmental impacts that are not part of the Cal ARP program.

9. Before a US EPA ID is issued, the facility must enter appropriate information into the California Environmental Reporting System that will lead to a notification of the local UPA. It appears at this point that this matter may be better suited for regulations.

10. Risk based inspections will be workshopped this year and introduced in the next legislative session.

11. Hazardous Materials Professional certification and registration is another concept under construction for possible introduction in the next legislative year.

12. Underground storage tank provisions are being examined for next year to include provisions that are onerous or not protective of public health or the environment. A workgroup will be put together with UST Tag membership to develop some of these concepts.

13. Several other ideas are still under development and may be considered next year including release reporting for facilities not under Chapter 6.95 and administrative enforcement order capabilities for hazardous substance releases.

As the legislation is developed and placed into bills, issue coordinators on the CFB will interact with key stakeholders on legislative questions and concerns. This will hopefully include the Haz-Mat committee of the Conference of Directors of Environmental Health, Cal-Chief’s and industry representatives where appropriate.

One other major area of potential legislation or regulation is in the area of personal use of marijuana, recently approved through Proposition 64. It is expected that new legislation or regulations, on top of local ordinances will be developed and implemented in the next several years to address growers, retail sales, processing, manufacturing, and lab operations.
If you think working in the Inspection Section of the Health Hazardous Materials Division (HHMD) means you have to work solo, think again. In the Southwest District, as in the other inspection districts, we have plenty of opportunities to work as a team with other agencies that have multiple jurisdictions over facilities that we inspect and facilities that operate without a permit. These teams are called the Environmental Justice Task Force and are comprised of several agencies which may include the Office of the Los Angeles City Attorney, California Department of Toxic Substances Control, Los Angeles City Fire Department (LA City CUPA), Los Angeles Port Police, Los Angeles City Public Works (Industrial Waste Division), and many others. Depending on the city, area, region or complaint issue, the combination of agencies involved will vary. Like many environmental justice teams, the Wilmington Task Force is important in addressing and monitoring critical environmental issues, such as illegal dumping, abandonment of hazardous wastes, the illegal and unapproved discharges of waste, the lack of hazardous waste and hazardous materials permits, and the failure to submit hazardous materials business plans. The aim of the team in addressing these issues is achieved through the combined efforts of many agencies to obtain regulatory compliance in communities that are home to large industries in Southern California. The community of Wilmington is part of the City of Los Angeles. Its size is about 9.4 square miles and is home to more than 50,000 residents. Wilmington is also home to several large oil refineries in Southern California, the Port of Los Angeles, and many businesses that support the oil, shipping, and trucking industries. Some of these supporting businesses include bunker oil testing labs, oil tank storage areas, shipping and logistics operations, tank washing, truck washing, truck maintenance, truck auto body, truck parts salvaging, and many more. With the vibrant and fast-paced economy of Southern California, it is especially critical for many agencies to work together to monitor and inspect businesses that may be operating without a permit, have changed ownership, changed operations, or closed without an approved closure assessment. In the beginning of the 2016-2017 Fiscal Year, the Wilmington Task Force was re-activated after being inactive for nearly two years. The team that I joined was comprised of two officers from the LA City Port Police, one inspector from the LA City Fire Department (LA City CUPA), four inspectors/investigators from the LA City Public Works, one inspector from the LA County Fire Department (HHMD), and a representative from the LA City Attorney’s Office. The task force addressed several complaints in the industrial areas of Wilmington. The complaints were referred to other agencies in the taskforce, including illegal dumping of trash (LA City Public Works), unpermitted hazardous materials sites (LA City CUPA), storm water discharge violations (LA City Public Works), and active illegal disposal of cast-offs by a container truck (LA Port Police). The Department’s contributions to the task force included the permit investigation and inspection of potential hazardous waste generators, routine inspection of permitted hazardous waste facilities, and issuance of notices of violations for many minor infractions. Part of being involved in a task force is not only the teamwork among agencies but also getting to know the “big ticket” issues sought by other agencies and networking with individual inspectors, investigators and officers. Among the common issues sought by other agencies are: the improper management of oil-bearing materials to ensure the oil does not enter the storm water drainage system, especially during rain; permitting many hazardous materials handlers in LA City; and monitoring illegal dumping by businesses onto open LA City property lots throughout the Wilmington area. The Wilmington Task Force is just one of many other groups that have the goal of ensuring environmental protection and justice is delivered to communities that are heavily impacted by industries that handle chemicals and generate wastes. Involvement in a task force can be time consuming because it involves meeting and planning joint efforts prior to field work. It also requires a lot of patience, especially if several agencies inspect the same business at the same time. Each agency involved will insist on their own walkthrough and closing conference with business operators to ensure they fully understand the scope of each agency inspection, inspection findings and repercussions of non-compliance. Ultimately, despite the challenges of bringing several agencies to work together, the goal of environmental justice is brought to equitable conclusion by working closely with each agency.

Quote of the Day:
“Unity is strength ... when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved.” —Mattie Stepanek
Division Drill

In any disaster or unexpected catastrophic event, responders are expected to do their duty with expertise and confidence. This is why they train endlessly, preparing themselves for the eventual showdown. Health Hazardous Materials Division (HHMD) personnel hone their skills and knowledge through Division drills which are designed to prepare all staff to respond efficiently and effectively in any emergency in the County. The drill is planned for three days with the first two days concentrating on classroom instruction on important topics. The third day is a field exercise on what has been learned and to apply those newly acquired skills to different scenarios that staff may be engaged in during an emergency.

On November 1, 2016, HHMD held its annual Division Drill at its headquarters in the City of Commerce and at the Department’s Del Valle Regional Training Center in Castaic. During classroom instruction, participants were divided into four teams and received training on health and safety, sampling techniques, hazard recognition, using self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), decontamination procedures, radiation safety and instrumentation, electricity safety, asbestos recognition, and monitoring detection. On the third day, they went to Del Valle and each team participated with their Level B and Level C personal protection equipment (PPE) to respond to four challenging scenarios.

Scenario one involved a five-station obstacle course, comprised of changing SCBA bottles; handling abandoned drums filled with hazardous materials; packaging and isolating abandoned hazardous waste containers; suit up in Level B protection equipment and going to a hot zone area with SCBAs; and removing their PPE after going through a simulated decontamination process. Scenario two involved conducting damage assessment after an active incident. Inspectors were required to evaluate the conditions inside a damaged building. They were instructed to recognize physical and chemical hazards, such as downed electrical wires, spilled chemicals and any evidence of criminal activities in a drug lab. Scenario three involved dealing with a flash fire explosion, resulting from a chemical reaction of mixing incompatible materials. This scenario familiarized the staff on getting critical information from the responsible party, sizing up the scenes, donning Level B protection, using monitoring equipment, getting samples and using the incident command system of reporting and communication. The last scenario was “Decon” where the incident responders underwent decontamination from the chemicals that they were exposed by passing through two or three pools, getting scrubbed and rinsed from head to toe.

At the end of the Division drill, the proctors of each scenario presented their observations on how the participants performed. Chief Bill Jones commended everyone for their teamwork, their dedication in pursuing the mission and for participating in this training. In the end, everyone was full of excitement and confidence knowing that when the call for action comes for a big event, each one will know exactly what to do.

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The new clerical staff are from left to right: ITC Fernanda Martinez, ITC Edward Escobedo, STC Flora Correa, Professional Student Worker Rodney Phao, and Student Worker Lizette Sanchez.