

Unified Program Newsletter – November 2024

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CalEPA

CERS NextGen Project

Join us for updates about the CERS NextGen Project on November 26, 2024, from 9:30-11:30 a.m. This meeting is open to all stakeholders and will provide a project update, timeline, and have a question-and-answer session with project staff. Register at: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/ce789229-0f50-4c82-9db2-9169088e9ecb@fedfd738-1216-4730-a902-fd41fa7f4dbc>

CalARP/HMBP

New Personnel

CalEPA is excited to announce that we have a new staff member that will be supporting the HMBP and CalARP programs and who will be helping to support inspection and enforcement program development and implementation. Please join us in welcoming Gerrit Kovach who has eleven years of CUPA experience, six with Orange County Environmental Health (OCEH) and five with the San Bernardino County Fire Department (SBCFD). Gerrit previously worked on the development and implementation of the OCEH enforcement program while also participating in the Enforcement Technical Advisory Group and conducting CUPA inspections. His most recent position was with SBCFD as a CUPA inspector which focused on underground storage tank (UST) inspections and construction. Gerrit was also a member of the OC Health Hazmat Team and the SBCFD Hazardous Materials Response Team.

Gerrit has presented multiple times at the CUPA Conference on enforcement topics and most recently in 2023 on UST components. He has assisted with multiple state-wide hazardous waste cases and had multiple UST cases with two becoming state-wide

cases. Prior to joining the CUPA world, Gerrit spent six years as a food and pool inspector with OCEH. Gerrit graduated from Cal State Fullerton with degrees in Biology and Chemistry.

DTSC

CUPA Training and Assistance

The DTSC's CUPA Training and Assistance Unit is excited to announce the successful delivery of our first Tiny Topic presentation, California 10x and Federal 20x 'Rules' at the Northern California TAG meeting. We are pleased to share that this topic will also be presented at the upcoming Hazardous Waste Central Region meeting and the Southern California TAG meeting in the coming months.

Since the beginning of our unit, we have received numerous requests from CUPAs to develop and deliver short training sessions, known as Tiny Topics. The purpose of these short trainings is to refresh existing knowledge rather than introduce new topics. Our next Tiny Topic will be on Tiered Permitting Financial Assurance.

If you have a suggestion for a Tiny Topic, we encourage you to reach out to us at DTSC_CUPATrainers@dtsc.ca.gov. Thank you for your continued support!

Hazardous Waste Tracking System and RCRAInfo System User Accounts Cleanup

Security best practices and standards require user accounts to be removed or disabled within a set amount of time. Stale accounts pose a security risk as each one of these accounts offers a bad actor an opportunity to gain access to the respective system's data and resources. If you are a manager or supervisor, e-mail myRCRAid@dtsc.ca.gov to request a list of active Hazardous Waste Tracking System and RCRAInfo regulatory agency user accounts from your agency. Review the list to identify employees who are no longer with your agency or no longer need access, so that DTSC can deactivate these user accounts.

Inactivation of ID Numbers Due to Noncompletion of DTSC's 2024 Hazardous Waste ID Number Verification Questionnaire

Hazardous waste handlers that are required to complete the 2024 Verification Questionnaire and fail to do so by December 1, 2024, by 11:59 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time (PDT) will have their ID number(s) inactivated on December 2. The inactive date will be backdated to June 30, 2024. Inactivating ID numbers due to noncompliance with Health and Safety Code section 25205.16 helps DTSC clean up data for handlers that are not using their ID number(s) and do not respond to notices.

The eVQ System will be closed on December 31, 2024, at 5 p.m. PDT. If a handler has not completed their 2024 Verification Questionnaire, refer them to the information below. Inactive ID numbers can be easily reactivated in Step 3 of the questionnaire. Beginning in 2025, the eVQ report cycle will be launching during the first quarter of each calendar year.

- ▷ **Website:** <https://evq.dtsc.ca.gov>
- ▷ **Training Video:** <https://dtsc.ca.gov/evq-training-video/>
- ▷ **Email:** eVQ@dtsc.ca.gov

Toll-free Number: 1-877-454-4012 Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Pacific Time.

Cal FIRE OSFM

Aboveground Petroleum Storage Act (APSA) Advisory Committee

The APSA Advisory Committee is seeking representation for the following groups:

- Central Region CUPA Forum (alternate)
- Northern Region CUPA Forum (alternate)
- Oil industry (alternate)
- Southern or central region fire department or district (alternate)
- Tank manufacturer (alternate)
- Environmental or engineering consultant (alternate)

If interested in becoming a committee voting member to represent one of the above groups, please send your letter of interest to the State Fire Marshal using the address below and email an electronic copy to cupa@fire.ca.gov.

State Fire Marshal
CAL FIRE – Office of the State Fire Marshal
P.O. Box 944246
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

For more information on the advisory committee, visit the website at <https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/committees/aboveground-petroleum-storage-act-apsa-advisory-committee>.

Underground Storage Tanks (UST) Prohibited for Use as Aboveground Storage Tanks (AST)

Question: Can a UST be used aboveground to store petroleum?

Answer: No.

USTs are prohibited for aboveground storage of flammable and combustible liquids under the California Fire Code (CFC) due to safety issues and structural reasons (2022 CFC Section 5704.2.7 and 2021 National Fire Protection Association 30, Section 21.3.4).

Refer to the following 2014 information bulletin and addendum posted on the CAL FIRE-OSFM information bulletin website at <https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/resources/information-bulletins>:

- Information Bulletin 14-005 “Underground Fuel Storage Tanks Prohibited for Use as Aboveground Fuel Storage Tanks”
- Information Bulletin 14-005-A “Addendum - Underground Fuel Storage Tanks Prohibited for Use as Aboveground Fuel Storage Tanks”

In addition, the Federal Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) rule states a facility may “[not] use a container for the storage of oil unless its material and construction are compatible with the material stored and conditions of storage such as pressure and temperature” (Code of Federal Regulations, Title 40, Part 112, Section 112.8(c)(1)).

If you have any questions on the above information bulletin or its addendum, email cupa@fire.ca.gov.

References or links to information cited in this newsletter are subject to change. CalEPA is interested in your comments and suggestions regarding the Unified Program monthly newsletter. Please email your comments and suggestions to: cupa@calepa.ca.gov.

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