

Unified Program Newsletter – June 2025

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CalEPA

CERS Stale User Accounts: How to Regain Access to your Organization/Business

Stale user accounts pose a security risk as each accounts offers a malicious actor opportunity to gain access to CERS. To comply with CalEPA's Information Security policies, CalEPA recently completed our annual stale account cleanup activity and deactivated user accounts that had not signed in to CERS by the previously announced 5/16/2025 deadline. Individuals who missed the deadline can regain access to their Organization/Business by following the steps below.

Create a California Environmental Reporting System (CERS) account:

Refer to the [How to create a CERS Username and Password](https://cers.calepa.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/How-to-create-a-CERS-Username-and-Password.pdf) document (https://cers.calepa.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/How-to-create-a-CERS-Username-and-Password.pdf) posted on CalEPA's [CERS Central](https://cers.calepa.ca.gov/) website (https://cers.calepa.ca.gov/).

1. Navigate to the [CERS Central](https://cers.calepa.ca.gov/) website and select the "Business Portal Sign In" button from the Home page.
(<https://cers.calepa.ca.gov/>)
2. Select the "Create New Account" button located under "New to CERS?" section.
3. Complete the form then select the "Create My Account" button.
4. An email notification will be sent to the email address used to create the CERS account. Use the link to activate your account to complete the account setup process.

Request access to a facility/business:

5. Navigate to the [CERS Central](https://cers.calepa.ca.gov/) website and select the "Business Portal Sign In" button from the Home page.
(<https://cers.calepa.ca.gov/>)
6. Enter your activated account username and password to sign in to the CERS Business Portal.
7. Select the button titled "Add a new facility/business".
8. Enter the physical address of the facility and search.
9. Select the "Request Access" link to the right of the facility/business.

Access approval to the facility/business:

10. Requests for access will be directed to the business' Lead User contact(s).
11. If the facility/business does not have an active business Lead User, contact the local Unified Program Agency (UPA)/Regulator that the facility reports to for access approval.
 - o For UPA/Regulator contact information please refer to CalEPA's [Regulator Directory](https://cersapps.calepa.ca.gov/Public/Directory/).
(<https://cersapps.calepa.ca.gov/Public/Directory/>)

CERS NextGen Meetings

Monthly CERS NextGen meeting for regulators + Boards, Departments, and Offices
Second Tuesday of the month from 10-12

****Note** the June meeting has been moved to 1-3 to accommodate other Technical Advisory Group (TAG) meetings.

Please e-mail CERSNextGen@calepa.ca.gov to be e-mailed the meeting invitation for June 12th.

Monthly Townhall NextGen Meetings

Last Thursday of the month from 10-12

****Note** the June meeting has been moved to 1-3 to accommodate other TAG meetings.

Monthly registration is required on the NextGen website. Please see the below link for the June 26th meeting registration

<https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/a2ef4d0a-8625-4739-aa52-cf919c01eac9@fedfd738-1216-4730-a902-fd41fa7f4dbc>

CalARP/HMBP

Process Safety Performance Indicators for California Accidental Release Prevention (CalARP) Program 4 Facilities

The Process Safety Performance Indicators for CalARP Program 4 facilities are due to the Unified Program Agency (UPA) and to CalEPA by June 30, 2025. Facilities may submit the Process Safety Performance Indicators information to the CalARP@calepa.ca.gov inbox. Facilities may use the [Annual CalARP Process Safety Performance Indicator Form](https://calepa.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Annual-Process-Safety-Performance-Indicator-Form-Fillable-Template-4.2.2024-1.pdf) (<https://calepa.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Annual-Process-Safety-Performance-Indicator-Form-Fillable-Template-4.2.2024-1.pdf>), or can submit the equivalent information required by 19 CCR Section 5110.19(h)(1) subsections (A) through (E). Information regarding the requirements and access to the form can also be found on our [website](https://calepa.ca.gov/california-accidental-release-prevention/california-accidental-release-prevention-program-4-for-refineries/#:~:text=Process%20Safety%20Performance%20Indicators%20(PSPI))). ([https://calepa.ca.gov/california-accidental-release-prevention/california-accidental-release-prevention-program-4-for-refineries/#:~:text=Process%20Safety%20Performance%20Indicators%20\(PSPI\)\)](https://calepa.ca.gov/california-accidental-release-prevention/california-accidental-release-prevention-program-4-for-refineries/#:~:text=Process%20Safety%20Performance%20Indicators%20(PSPI)))

State Water Board

Single-Walled Underground Storage Tanks

Interactive Single-Walled UST Map

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) has prepared an interactive state map displaying the remaining facilities with single-walled underground storage tanks (USTs) or single-walled piping. The interactive map combines data sourced from GeoTracker, the California Environmental Reporting System (CERS), and the single-walled UST survey data provided by the Unified Program Agencies (UPAs). It includes features such as facility owner type, tank use, CalEnviroScreen 4.0 scores, Replacing, Removing, or Upgrading USTs (RUST) loan or grant application status, and the distance to the nearest public drinking water wells and gas stations. To ensure the map remains up to date, another single-walled UST survey will be distributed to the UPAs this month. The State Water Board will continue updating the map every 60 days to maintain an accurate count of single-walled UST facilities in preparation for the December 31, 2025, closure deadline.

The [single-walled UST map](https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/114d66f2c73f418fb2a286fb2ded2207)

(<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/114d66f2c73f418fb2a286fb2ded2207>) is available as a link on the State Water Board [single-walled UST](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/ust/single_walled.html) webpage (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/ust/single_walled.html).

Improper Use of Temporary Closure

As of January 1, 2025, UPAs cannot grant temporary closure, or an extension of temporary closure, for any single-walled UST. Temporary closure applies to USTs that have temporarily ceased storing hazardous substances, *with the intent to resume storage* within the next 12 months (See California Code of Regulations, title 23, division 3, chapter 16 [UST Regulations], section 2670[b]). Single-walled USTs should not be placed into temporary closure, as they are required to be permanently closed on or before December 31, 2025 (See Health & Safety Code (H&SC), chapter 6.7, section 25292.05).

With the closure deadline only seven months away, UST owners and operators of single-walled USTs should be preparing to permanently close their single-walled USTs to ensure compliance with H&SC, section 25292.05. The State Water Board expects UPAs to prioritize progressive enforcement of single-walled USTs, including those currently in temporary closure, until they comply or are permanently closed.

For information regarding single-walled USTs, please contact:

Jenna Hartman at (916) 327-8563 or Jenna.Hartman@waterboards.ca.gov.

Emergency Tank Systems

State Water Board staff have observed several instances where USTs are being regulated as emergency tank systems but do not meet the definition of an emergency tank system and therefore, do not qualify for the associated unburied piping exemption in H&SC 6.7, section 25281.5(b)(3). Additionally, staff have also observed emergency tank systems that have line leak detectors (LLD) installed that are not performing release detection as required.

An emergency tank system is a UST system that stores diesel fuel or kerosene to be utilized during emergencies by one or more stationary devices (H&SC, chapter 6.7 section 25281.5[c]). Unburied product piping connected to an emergency tank system is excluded from the construction, monitoring, and testing requirements in Article 3 of the UST Regulations if it is visually inspected at least monthly and inspection logs are maintained for UPA review (H&SC, chapter 6.7 section 25281.5[b][3]). Product piping that is in a conduit through building walls or ceilings where both sides of the penetration can be visually observed also qualifies for the unburied piping exclusion.

If a UST system is connected to a stationary device that does not utilize the supplied diesel or kerosene *solely* during emergencies, the UST system is not an emergency tank system and does not qualify for the unburied piping exclusion. For example, a UST system that is connected to a boiler that operates continuously and utilizes the stored product as the primary source of fuel does not qualify as an emergency tank system and cannot utilize the unburied piping exclusion discussed above. UST systems

connected to non-emergency stationary devices must meet all construction, monitoring, and testing requirements in Article 3 of the UST Regulations, including continuous monitoring and by a LLD that either restricts or shuts off flow when a leak is detected.

Finally, a LLD is only capable of conducting the 3.0 gallon per hour line tightness test if the turbine shuts off. UST systems that operate continuously do not allow the LLD to perform the line tightness test, thereby effectively bypassing the leak detection device. These systems should be programmed to perform periodic shutdowns to ensure the LLD can complete the required line tightness test.

For information regarding emergency tank systems, please contact: Jenna Hartman at (916) 327-8563 or Jenna.Hartman@waterboards.ca.gov.

Violation Reissuance Guidance – CERS FAQ

The State Water Board has posted a CERS FAQ on reissuing United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Technical Compliance Rate (TCR) violations during the subsequent annual UST compliance inspection, if the violation remains uncorrected. The [Reissuing Technical Compliance Rate Violations FAQ](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/ust/cers/ru20_violation_reissuance_guidance.html) (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/ust/cers/ru20_violation_reissuance_guidance.html) is available on the [UST Leak Prevention Program](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/ust/leak_prevention/) website (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/ust/leak_prevention/) under the [CERS FAQ](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/ust/cers/) webpage (<https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/ust/cers/>). The State Water Board emphasizes that this document applies only to the UST Program and should be viewed separately from the CalEPA CERS guidance document titled [Reporting Violations in CERS](https://cers.calepa.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/reporting-escalated-violations_general.pdf) (https://cers.calepa.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/reporting-escalated-violations_general.pdf).

The State Water Board requires inspectors to reissue the same U.S. EPA TCR violation during the subsequent annual compliance inspection if it remains uncorrected. Failure to do so will result in the violation not being captured in the Report 6 data for that reporting period.

For additional information regarding the violation reissuance guidance document, contact: Michelle Suh at (916) 323-0878 or Michelle.Suh@waterboards.ca.gov.

DTSC

Rulemaking Update: Conditional Exemption for Undeployed Airbags

The 45-day public comment period for the airbag regular rulemaking began on May 30, 2025, and ends on July 14, 2025. DTSC is proposing to adopt the federal conditional exemption for undeployed airbags to incentivize the removal of defective airbags from vehicles and the proper disposal of airbag waste by relieving some regulatory burdens to airbag handlers. The rulemaking package is available for viewing on DTSC's website at <https://dtsc.ca.gov/dtsc-proposed-regulations/>. Written comments may be submitted electronically through the DTSC regulations email address at regs@dtsc.ca.gov.

THREE Upcoming (VIRTUAL) Trainings



Training #1

Verbal Judo®

July 14-16, 2025

Training Times:

Please note that Arizona is on MST time which is not always the same as Mountain Time. We do not observe Daylight Savings Time so part of the year Arizona is on Pacific Time, and part of the year Arizona is on Mountain Time. The times listed below are the correct times for this training.

8:00 am – 12:30 pm for Hawaii Attendees on all three days of training
10:00 am – 2:30 pm for Alaska Attendees on all three days of training
11:00 am – 3:30 pm for Pacific Time and for Arizona Attendees on all three days of training
12:00 pm – 4:30 pm for Mountain Time Attendees on all three days of training
1:00 pm – 5:30 pm for Central Time Attendees on all three days of training
2:00 pm – 6:30 pm for Eastern Time Attendees on all three days of training

About this Training:

Verbal Judo® is a tactical communications course originally designed for law enforcement officers, but one that has applications for anyone who deals with the public on a regular basis. It has been tailored for business, education, and the airline industry, among others.

This course has now been specifically adapted for regulatory inspectors. Attendees will learn techniques to redirect and handle emotionally-charged verbal attacks in order to “generate voluntary compliance.” Attendees will leave this course with improved verbal communication skills and enhanced professionalism. It is beneficial for anyone who interacts with the public in any capacity.

Registration Fee: \$300/person

Training #2

Determining Economic Benefit of Violations, and Enforcement – Getting Results August 5, 2025

Training Times:

Please note that Arizona is on MST time which is not always the same as Mountain Time. We do not observe Daylight Savings Time so part of the year Arizona is on Pacific Time, and part of the year Arizona is on Mountain Time. The times listed below are the correct times for this training.

7:00 am – 11:00 am Hawaii Time
9:00 am – 1:00 pm Alaska Time
10:00 am – 2:00 pm Pacific Time and for Arizona Attendees
11:00 am – 3:00 pm Mountain Time
12:00 pm – 4:00 pm Central Time
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm Eastern Time

About this Training:

Determining Economic Benefit of Violations – this portion of the training will cover what is economic benefit, why/when to consider it, what do you include, how to determine, available tools, and ability to pay.

This training will not teach you how to use the BEN and ABEL model.

Enforcement, Getting Results – this portion of the training will cover a variety of topics including working with prosecutors, preparation for hearings (testimony), drafting settlements, and publicity/communication issues.

Registration Fee: \$125/person

Training #3

Verbal Judo® August 18-20, 2025

Training Times:

Please note that Arizona is on MST time which is not always the same as Mountain Time. We do not observe Daylight Savings Time so part of the year Arizona is on Pacific Time, and part of the year Arizona is on Mountain Time. The times listed below are the correct times for this training.

7:00 am – 11:30 am for Hawaii Attendees on all three days of training
9:00 am – 1:30 pm for Alaska Attendees on all three days of training
10:00 am – 2:30 pm for Pacific Time and for Arizona Attendees on all three days of training
11:00 am – 3:30 pm for Mountain Time Attendees on all three days of training
12:00 pm – 4:30 pm for Central Time Attendees on all three days of training
1:00 pm – 5:30 pm for Eastern Time Attendees on all three days of training

About this Training:

Verbal Judo® is a tactical communications course originally designed for law enforcement officers, but one that has applications for anyone who deals with the public on a regular basis. It has been tailored for business, education, and the airline industry, among others.

This course has now been specifically adapted for regulatory inspectors. Attendees will learn techniques to redirect and handle emotionally-charged verbal attacks in order to “generate voluntary compliance.” Attendees will leave this course with improved verbal communication skills and enhanced professionalism. It is beneficial for anyone who interacts with the public in any capacity.

Registration Fee: \$300/person

Payment is not required to register for these courses. Registration fee can be paid by check, credit card or PO before training, or check or credit card after training.

To register for any of these trainings:

Go to www.regionalassociations.org

Scroll down to the training calendar.

Right above the training calendar is a blue box that says:

CLICK HERE for more information, or to register for a Western States Project training

Click on that blue box and it will take you to our new WSP online registration and payment system.

You can register there.

QUESTIONS: E-mail Lynn Cassidy at: Cassidy.Lynn@azdeq.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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