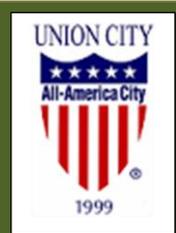


ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS UPDATE



Union City Environmental Programs Division - A Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA)
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Electronic Reporting Mandate

One of the biggest changes ever in hazardous materials requirements for California businesses will take effect starting in 2013. State law AB 2286 was signed into law in 2009 and requires all businesses and organizations regulated by the local Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) to use the internet to electronically submit their hazardous materials information. This includes facility data regarding chemical inventories, hazardous waste generation, and underground and aboveground storage tanks.

Called the California Environmental Reporting System (CERS), this secure web site will be fully operational later in 2012. Businesses will be required to establish an account on CERS and enter all the information now filed in paper form. Hard copies of the required forms will no longer be accepted – the submittals must be completed using CERS. After you enter and save your facility's data into the CERS system it will be routed to Union City Environmental Programs for review and acceptance. You will be notified electronically of omissions or required changes, which must be entered by you before your submittal is approved. Having all your information stored on the State database should make it easier for you to track your facility's chemical storage quantities and hazardous waste generation, and eliminate duplication in the required annual reporting. We are planning several CERS outreach training events later this year. If you would like to gain familiarity with CERS right now you can set up an account on the CERS training portal at <http://cers.calepa.ca.gov/>, and you may wish to attend the February 6-9 CUPA Training Conference. See <http://calcupa.net> for more info.

KNOW YOUR HAZARDOUS WASTE CATEGORY!

CESQG – Generator of less than 220 pounds (and less than 2.2 pounds of extremely hazardous waste) per month.

SQG – Generator of more than 220 pounds but less than 2,200 pounds per month (and less than 2.2 pounds of extremely hazardous waste) per month.

LQG – Generator of more than 2,200 pounds per month.
www.dtsc.ca.gov/PublicationsForms/pubs_index.cfm

You'll Notice Some Changes...

In recent years there have been some big changes in Union City hazardous materials enforcement, with the shift of authority from the Fire Department to the Environmental Programs Division of the Economic and Community Development Department and the introduction of new, full-time staff.

The Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA), which administers all hazardous materials and waste programs is the Environmental Programs Division, and is now your point of contact for hazardous materials issues.

You should feel free to contact us anytime you have questions, concerns or complaints about hazardous materials and hazardous wastes, underground or above-ground storage tanks, or for Best Management Practices related to clean water run-off. You can reach the Environmental Programs CUPA staff at:

Andy Block, Program Manager – 675-5358

Emily Hoe, Environmental Inspector – 675-5367

Rebecca Lu, Administrative Assistant – 675-5360

Lead–Acid Battery Reporting

Lead–acid batteries, like those in automobiles and forklifts, are a common hazardous material and hazardous waste and are required to be reported on your Hazardous Materials Business Plan (HMBP). How to report batteries on the chemical inventory declaration form has been a point of confusion for many businesses over the years.

The California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) has now issued guidance on battery reporting to provide consistency and clarity to the regulated community. The primary hazard from lead–acid battery electrolyte is corrosivity. From now on, you only need to report the quantity of electrolyte in the battery; you no longer need to report the amount of lead. For more information and a sample chemical inventory form for lead–acid batteries please check the EPA policy memo: www.calepa.ca.gov/cupa/Bulletins/2011/April28.pdf And remember: your annual invoice is based on your inventory and waste declarations – please ensure that you are reporting accurately.



Hazardous waste containers must be labeled! The label should be filled-out completely, including the facility name and address, type of material, the accumulation start date and generator EPA ID # when ready to ship out for disposal.

Did you know...? One quart of motor oil can contaminate up to 250,000 gallons of drinking

Safety Corner

Compressed gas cylinders have a 'date code' stamped on their shoulder near the top and most are required to be tested every 5 years. Any distributor who fills your cylinders should advise you when your cylinders need testing.

A Note about Fees/Permits

You'll notice some changes in your permits and annual invoices in 2012. With the transfer of the CUPA program from the Fire Department to the Environmental Programs Division of the Economic and Community Development Department, and the addition of new State–mandated programs, the City Council in 2011 adopted a new fee schedule to more accurately recover the City's actual costs in implementing the CUPA program.

Fees

The CUPA no longer conducts fire code inspections, so the permit and inspection fees for fire code and CUPA requirements have been separated. You will now receive two separate invoices, one for the Fire permits and one for the CUPA permits. We have separated the Fire charges from the CUPA charges, so you shouldn't see any double–billing, but there are some new fees: a charge to cover the cost of implementing the new State–mandated CERS electronic reporting requirement; a fee for facilities permitted in the State's new Aboveground Petroleum Storage Act program; and an inspection fee for the extra time required on special hazard facilities such as Underground Storage Tank sites.

Permits

Your separate CUPA and Fire Code permits will be mailed to you after payment of the program fees. Operating without a permit is a serious violation.

UNDERSTANDING THE STATE SURCHARGES

California law requires facilities that store, handle or use hazardous materials above thresholds to obtain a permit from the local hazardous materials regulatory agency. To cover the State's costs for overseeing the local agencies, such as training and audits, the law imposes annual surcharges on businesses which are collected by the local agency and forwarded to the state. These annual fees are as follows:

CUPA Facility State Surcharge	\$24/facility
Underground Storage Tank State Surcharge	\$15/tank
CERS Implementation State Surcharge (final year)	\$25/facility
Accidental Release Program State Surcharge	\$270/facility