



AMERICAN SAMOA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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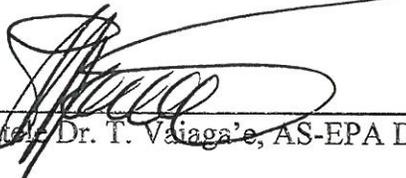
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PRESS RELEASE

Date: December 6, 2010

To: American Samoa Media Outlets

Fr: 
Fanuatele Dr. T. Vaiaga'e, AS-EPA Director

Re: **Tafuna Scrap Metal Yard (TSMY) Gas Cylinder Disposal Operations**

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Region 9 Emergency Response Section sent a team of hazardous materials (HazMat) specialists to the Territory for the duration of two weeks. The purpose of the team's visit is to conduct HazMat compressed gas cylinder neutralization and disposal work at the Tafuna Scrap Metal Yard (TSMY).

AS-EPA Director Fanuatele Dr. To'afa Vaiaga'e stated that the team is being led by USEPA On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Christopher Weden who is no stranger to American Samoa. Mr. Weden has been involved in past hazmat disposal projects on island, including the collection and disposal of chemicals and hazmat in the aftermath of the September 2009 Tsunami. The various compressed gas cylinders at the TSMY have been discovered over time during the scrap metal disposal project conducted by Good Year Corporation (GYC). The American Samoa Power Authority (ASPA) which awarded the scrap metal removal and disposal project to GYC has been rendering their assistance and cooperation with the logistical aspect of this project.

The Director pointed out that there is Anhydrous Ammonia Gas, Chlorine Gas and Acetylene Gas cylinders at the TSMY site along with various unknown gas cylinders that the team will be working on having them positively identified before neutralization and disposal operations can begin. The team arrived on December 06, 2010 and plans on completing their work in two weeks and could stay longer if needed in order to complete the project.

Department of Public Safety (DPS) Fire Hazmat Team will assist the USEPA team in identifying, neutralizing and disposing of the gas cylinders at the TSMY. Emergency Medical Services will be on standby if they are needed as a precautionary measure.

Nearby schools have been notified by AS-EPA of the type of work being done at the TSMY and to advise the children to stay away from venturing into or close to the TSMY site. Measures have been taken by the Hazmat team to ensure that the public is well protected from incidental releases that may occur at anytime during the project.

Dr. Vaiaga'e would like to ask the public for their cooperation and adherence to the aforementioned advice to ensure the public's health and safety is protected.