



AMERICAN SAMOA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799

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Information Release Authorization Form
Friday, June 1, 2012

- Newspaper
- Radio/Television
- Public Notice

Attached is an Information Release issued by our office (AS-EPA). We would like to ask your assistance in making this information available to the public immediately, via your broadcasts or news publications. For additional information, kindly contact the AS-EPA Director, Fanuatele Dr. To'afa Vaiaga'e, or Tumau Lokeni Iese, Environmental Awareness & Education Division Manager at 633-2304 or 733-5940. Fa'afetai tele lava.

- Governor's Office, Tapuitema
- Director, Department of Public Information (KVZK-TV)
- Malama TV Channel 4 News
- Samoa News
- Samoa Post
- KHJ FM 93.1 Radio Station
- WVUV V103.1 Radio Station
- KSBS FM92.1 Radio Station
- KNWJ FM104.7 Radio Station

Approved by: Date: 6/1/2012
Fanuatele Dr. To'afa Vaiaga'e
Director, AS-EPA

Description:

Title/Heading:

Tafuna Scrap Metal Yard (TSMY) Gas Cylinders Disposal Operations continues...



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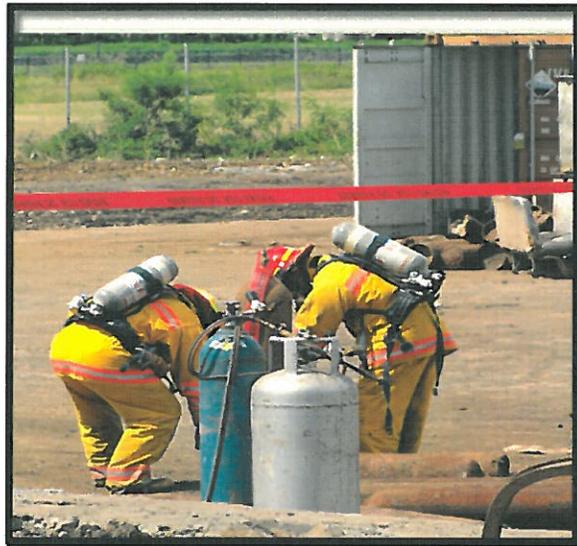
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Tafuna Scrap Metal Yard (TSMY) Gas Cylinder Disposal Operations continues

The United States Environmental Protection Agency Region 9 (USEPA) in collaboration with the American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency (AS-EPA), DPS-FIRE, ASPA, and the American Samoa Department of Homeland Security (ASDHS) have been working diligently in the past to ensure that safety measures were in place for the successful disposal and removal of hazardous materials – mainly gas cylinders left by Good Year Company at the old Tafuna Scrap Metal Yard (TSMY). The USEPA Region 9 Emergency Response Unit based in San Francisco, California initially sent a team of Hazmat Specialists including members of the United States Coast Guard (USCG) Pacific Strike Team in December of 2010 to begin the gas cylinder neutralization work. The team have returned to complete the process as new gas cylinders have been discovered beneath the surface of the TSMY. The team arrived Sunday night (June 3rd, 2012) and is planning to be in the Territory for two weeks to complete the project. USEPA Region 9 On-Scene Coordinator (OSC)



Before: Hazmat Team in Safety Suits neutralizing hazardous gas-cylinders at TSMY in Tafuna.

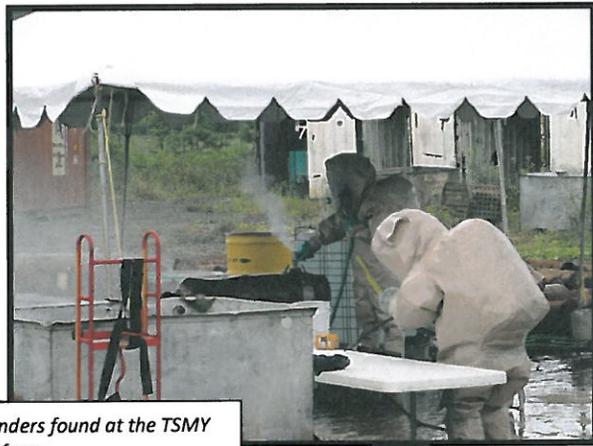
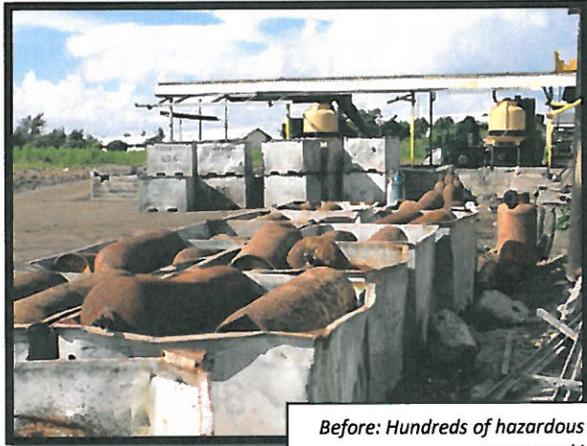
Christopher Weden is leading the team of Hazmat Specialists which includes Duane Newell, Travis Olson, James Rogers, William Staneart, and Carrie Lee Gagnon.

According to the AS-EPA Director Fanuatele Dr. To'afa Vaiaga'e, USEPA Region 9 has been very generous in providing our Territory with the necessary support needed to safely take care of hazardous materials projects such as this and many others due to the large volume and quantity of unknown hazards that are associated with such removal operations. The Director also pointed out that the collaboration between USEPA and our local departments/agencies is critical as these types of projects provide valuable hands-on training experiences for our hazmat first responders to enhance their knowledge and preparedness capabilities.

This operation will begin Monday June 4, 2012 and will continue on for two weeks. The Director would like to acknowledge the cooperation of some of the local departments mainly ASPA, DPS-Fire HazMat Team, ASDHS, and the Department of Port Administration in assisting with the safe neutralization and

disposal of hundreds of hazardous cylinders found at the TSMY Compound. All health and safety measures have been taken into consideration to ensure the safe handling and disposal of hazardous throughout the duration of this project.

For more information please do not hesitate to contact AS-EPA at 633-2304. The details of this project will be published upon completion.



Before: Hundreds of hazardous cylinders found at the TSMY compound in Tafuna.

