



AMERICAN SAMOA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799

TOGIOLA T.A. TULAFONO  
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FAOAA. SUNIA  
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TOAFA F.T. VAIAGAE PH.D.  
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Information Release Authorization Form

Thursday, March 17, 2011

- 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 Program Manager at 633-2304 or 733-5940. Fa'afetai tele lava.

- Governor's Office, Tapuitea
- 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Fanuatele Dr. To'afa Vaiaga'e  
Director, AS-EPA

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

4/4/11

Description:

Title/Heading:

AS-EPA declared<sup>s</sup> an end to all major operation at the Tafuna Scrap Metal Yard.



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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **AS-EPA declares an end to all major operation at the Tafuna Scrap Metal Yard**

The American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency (AS-EPA) has officially declared an end to all major operation and activity at the Tafuna Scrap Metal Yard (TSMY). AS-EPA Director Fanuatele Dr. T. Vaiaga'e commends the Honorable Governor Togiola T.A. Tulafono for his endless support throughout the course of the TSMY clean-up project. The massive clean-up project began in 2007 by Good Year Corporation, a company contracted by the American Samoa Power Authority (ASPA). As the primary environmental regulatory agency in American Samoa, AS-EPA maintained oversight of the project due to the large volume and quantity of known and unknown hazards that were associated with the removal/clean-up operation.

AS-EPA sought technical assistance from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Region 9 to assist with the safe neutralization and disposal of hundreds of hazardous cylinders found at the TSMY which Good Year Corporation failed to meet. In response, USEPA Region 9 assembled a team of experts which was led by On Scene Coordinator (OSC) Chris Weden. The team consisted of two OSCs, an Emergency Response Team from Las Vegas, and the United States Coast Guard's Pacific Strike Force from the 11<sup>th</sup> CG District in Alameda, CA.

This team worked closely with AS-EPA, ASPA, and our local Fire Department's HazMat Team. The team successfully neutralized and disposed of the hazardous cylinders and our local first responders benefitted enormously from the experience.

According to the Director, hundreds of tons of scrap metal have been removed, a significant amount of hazardous materials and cylinders have been safely disposed and neutralized, and the site has been properly restored for future airport expansion and development. The Director expressed his sincerest appreciation to USEPA Region 9 for their technical assistance and also to the team of experts from multiple federal agencies. Further, the Director is very grateful for the support from our local first responders especially our local Fire Department throughout the duration of the project.