



AMERICAN SAMOA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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Information Release Authorization Form
Tuesday, March 04, 2014

- Newspapers (Advertisement/Public Notice/Press Release)
- Radio Stations
- Televisions

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, Ameko Pato or Deputy Director, Faamao Asalele, or Tumau Lokeni, Environmental Awareness & Education Program Manager at 633-2304.

Fa'afetai lava.

- Governor's Office, ASG Weekly
- Director, Department of Public Information (KVZK-TV)
- Samoa News
- Samoa Post
- KHJ FM 93.1 Radio Station
- WVUV FM 103.1 Radio Station
- KSBS FM 92.1 Radio Station
- KNWJ FM 104.7 Radio Station

Title/Heading:

"USEPA CHEMICAL REMOVAL/DISPOSAL"

Approved by: 
Ameko Pato, Director
American Samoa – EPA

Date: 3/4/14



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PRESS RELEASE

USEPA CHEMICAL REMOVAL/DISPOSAL

A team from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Region will be in the Territory from March 4 – 14, 2014 to assess and dispose various hazardous wastes from high school and community college (ASCC) laboratories, LBJ Tropical Medical Center, Department of Agriculture (DOA) and the American Samoa Shipyard Service Authority (ASSSA).

The team is headed by Chris Reiner and Bret Moxley who are USEPA on scene coordinators out of the region 9 office in San Francisco, California. The team also consist of five USEPA contractors who specializes in chemical assessment and neutralization and as well as hazardous waste transportation and disposal. USEPA agreed to send the team to American Samoa in response to a request for technical assistance by the American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency's (AS-EPA) Director, Mr. Ameko Pato.

According to Director Pato, he and Governor Lolo Matalasi Moliga were discussing any assistance that AS-EPA can provide in dealing with drums of paint thinners, mixed fuels and chemicals at the American Samoa Shipyard Service Authority (ASSSA) which have been accumulating over time. After multiple meetings with the ASSSA management, he decided to request USEPA for technical assistance to address the said issue and as well as using this opportunity to address hazardous waste or chemical disposal from high school labs, ASCC lab, LBJ Medical Center and DOA cancelled/expired pesticides.

Director Pato stated that "I would like to thank USEPA Region 9 for generously accepting my request for technical assistance in addressing this serious issue. Chemicals and pesticides that are not disposed of properly can have a devastating impact on public health, our drinking water resources and our fragile environment." He also pointed out that this is a one-time opportunity to have these chemicals disposed of properly and when this project is over, the responsibility to dispose any future chemicals or hazardous wastes will be that of the responsible party. "These facilities and institutions are required to develop hazardous materials management plans for their chemicals which includes a plan to properly dispose them when they are no longer being used" stated the director.

The USEPA team will work in conjunction with the AS-EPA Air & Land Division on this project. DPS-Fire Hazmat Team, EMS and Department of Homeland Security has been notified of the project to provide support and assistance in the event that it is needed. USEPA and AS-EPA has taken the necessary measures to ensure the safe assessment, packaging, transporting and disposal of the aforementioned chemicals. For more information on this project call AS-EPA at 633-2304.