



AMERICAN SAMOA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

P.O. Box PPA

Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799

Information Release Authorization Form

Monday, October 26, 2015

LOLO M. MOLIGA
Governor

LEMANU P. MAUGA
Lt. Governor

AMEKO PATO
Director

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- 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:

“AS-EPA held a ceremony to deputize New Inspectors”

Approved by: for. [Signature]
Ameko Pato, Director
American Samoa – EPA

Date: 10/26/2015



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PRESS RELEASE

AS-EPA Held a Ceremony to Deputize New Enforcement Officers

The American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency (AS-EPA) held a pinning ceremony and presented enforcement badges last week Friday, October 23, 2015 to three of its newest enforcement officers. The badge recipients were:

1. Antonina Te'o, Branch Chief, Piggeries (Water Division);
2. Ignosy Toeava, Branch Chief, Hazardous Materials (Air & Land Division); and
3. Tualagi Gaoteote, Environmental Specialist II, Pesticides (Air & Land Division).



AS-EPA Director Ameko Pato congratulated the new enforcement officers and commended them for their hard work in driving the agency's various environmental programs forward. As a regulatory agency, AS-EPA provides an important service to the community by safeguarding against pollution to the Territory's air, land and water resources. AS-EPA enforcement officers play a key role in regulating commercial and governmental facilities, business establishments and residential premises looking into activities that may impact public health, drinking water resources and the environment.

In conjunction with the pinning ceremony, AS-EPA's Attorney Marian McGuire conducted a refresher training session for all of its enforcement officers regarding field citation issuance and



courtroom testimony. This training is part of AS-EPA's efforts to step up enforcement against illegal actions impacting our local environment.

Director Pato has emphasized to the AS-EPA Enforcement Officers to take a more aggressive enforcement approach when dealing with hazardous materials, pesticides, piggeries and solid waste matters, because these types of violations directly puts the health and safety of the community at risk. He further stated that AS-EPA officers are at the forefront of ASG's efforts to protect our natural resources and keep American Samoa beautiful therefore it is imperative to be vigilant when fulfilling their duties.

AS-EPA urges commercial and governmental facility owners, business establishments and the public to continue to work with them in ensuring that solid wastes are collected and disposed of properly; and that piggeries, pesticides and hazardous materials regulations are adhered to at all times. Working collaboratively to address an issue has always been the "Samoan Way" (Galulue Fa'atasi) of doing things and AS-EPA encourages this. However, director Pato said that there are also those who do not want to cooperate and continue to violate the rules and regulations. According to Pato, for these cases, the only solution is to issue a citation and take them to court. He said that AS-EPA has recently hired an attorney (Marian McGuire) to prosecute AS-EPA related cases and she intends see to it that those who wish to ignore and violate the law will be held accountable.

