



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
NEWS RELEASE

Department of Toxic Substances Control

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Contact: Lisa Gray
916.324.0936
Ron Baker
916.324.3142

Old Hammer Field Public Information Workshop To Be Held

SACRAMENTO --- The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) today announced a public information workshop regarding Old Hammer Field (OHF) located at the Fresno-Yosemite International Airport in Fresno.

The workshop will be held on Thursday, May 16, 2002, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Ewing Elementary School at 4873 E. Olive Avenue in Fresno. A short presentation will be made at 7:00 p.m. regarding the cleanup activities currently being conducted, potential health effects to the community of contaminants at the site, and what steps are coming up in the process in which the community can be involved. Technical experts from all the involved agencies will be on hand after the presentation to answer questions from the community. The format will be informal.

OHF was part of the Hammer Army Air Field from 1941 to 1946. The site is a 1,598-acre tract of land in the northeast portion of the City of Fresno. It includes land currently occupied by the Fresno-Yosemite International Airport. The majority of the property is owned by the City of Fresno and was leased to the federal government for use as an army airfield. Operation of OHF began in 1941 and the airfield was deactivated in December 1945. The property then reverted back to the City of Fresno. The landing strip was subsequently developed as the current municipal airport.

Studies have found that historical activities at the site have impacted soil and groundwater. Potentially harmful chemicals such as chlorinated solvents have been detected in soil and groundwater. A groundwater plume has migrated off site and has impacted private and public municipal drinking water wells.

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The Old Hammer Field Steering Committee, a group comprised of the City of Fresno, the Boeing Company, the National Guard Bureau, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District, is responsible for conducting site investigation and cleanup activities. DTSC and the Regional Water Quality Control Board provide regulatory oversight on activities carried out at the site.

(Media open house to be held at 6:30 p.m. prior to the Public Information Workshop.)

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The Department of Toxic Substances Control's mission is to restore, protect, and enhance the environment and ensure public health, environmental quality and economic vitality by regulating hazardous waste, conducting and overseeing cleanups, and developing and promoting pollution prevention.

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"The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our Web-site at www.dtsc.ca.gov."