

Fact Sheet
August 2003

Cleaning Up Perchlorate



DEPARTMENT OF TOXIC
SUBSTANCES CONTROL

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DTSC is one of six Boards and Departments within the California Environmental Protection Agency. DTSC's mission is to restore, protect and enhance the environment, to ensure public health, environmental quality and economic vitality, by regulating hazardous waste, conducting and overseeing cleanups, and developing and promoting pollution prevention.

State of California



California
Environmental
Protection Agency



The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) prepared this fact sheet to provide general information about DTSC's role in requiring the cleanup of sites contaminated with perchlorate, a drinking water contaminant. State and federal laws give DTSC authority to require the cleanup of any site in California where a toxic substance has been released.

Corrective Action Orders

Under Chapter 6.5 of the Health and Safety Code, DTSC oversees cleanup activities at hazardous waste generator facilities, hazardous waste management facilities, and illegal operations to protect human health and the environment. Any facility that generates hazardous waste or has a permit or a grant of authorization to store, treat, or dispose of hazardous waste, is required to perform corrective action (cleanup) where hazardous wastes or constituents (including perchlorate) have been released into the soil, ground water, surface water, or air. Cleanup at these facilities involves investigating the extent of contamination, assessing the risks from exposure, and developing and implementing remediation plans with public involvement. There are currently seven known sites that involve perchlorate contamination.

Site Remediation

Under Chapter 6.8 of the Health and Safety Code, DTSC conducts and oversees the remediation of properties throughout the State—including former industrial plants, military bases, small businesses, and landfills—that are contaminated with some level of toxic substances. DTSC's site evaluation and cleanup process includes the discovery, investigation, and cleanup of properties where uncontrolled releases of hazardous substances (including perchlorate) have occurred. Work is currently underway on hundreds of contaminated properties throughout the State, approximately 15 of which are known to involve perchlorate.

For More Information

Please visit the following websites for additional information on perchlorate.

www.dtsc.ca.gov

www.oehha.ca.gov

www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/ddwem/chemicals/perchl/actionlevel.htm

www.epa.gov/safewater/ccl/perchlor/perchlo.html

For questions, call DTSC's regional Public and Business Liaisons at (800) 72TOXIC (1-800-728-6942) or visit www.dtsc.ca.gov

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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.