IN THE NEWS

Fire Response: DTSC emergency response crews went in after the Detwiler fire in Mariposa County and helped assess and remove household hazardous waste, such as oil, computer parts and other types of metals.
http://www.mariposagazette.com/news/2017-08-10/Local_News/State_specialists_are_working_to_clean_up_hazardou.html

DTSC aids DMV Investigators in Combat against Unlicensed Vehicles:
Investigators with the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) targeted 35 locations in San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties in an effort to combat unlicensed vehicle dismantlers. During a two-day enforcement operation on September 6 and 7, DMV investigators cited 14 individuals for illegally dismantling vehicles and other offenses. In addition, the DTSC found seven of these locations in violation of state and federal environmental regulations. In September 2016, Assembly Bill 1858 was signed into law, requiring the DMV to collaborate with representatives from several state agencies, including DTSC, to investigate the occurrences of unlicensed and unregulated vehicle dismantling.
Dismantlershttps://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/dmv/detail/pubs/newsrel/2017/2017_58

ENFORCEMENT

On the Case: The Office of Criminal Investigations was not to be deterred in an investigation that centered on a California biomass facility. Soil sampling and an extensive review of laboratory data resulted in a $4.2 million judgment.
http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/Success/upload/Biomass-Success.pdf

Thirty Days of Action: Eleven violations were noted and 179 vehicles were inspected at border crossings during a joint enforcement operation involving DTSC, Mexican authorities and other agencies. The effort was part of the International Police Organization (INTERPOL), Thirty Days of Action, the largest-ever global enforcement operation against waste crime and trafficking.
https://www.interpol.int/News-and-media/News/2017/N2017-100

SITE MITIGATION

Santa Susana Field Lab Draft PEIR and PMP Released: On September 7, 2017, DTSC released the Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) and the Draft Program Management Plan (PMP) for soil and groundwater cleanup at the Santa Susana Field Lab (SSFL). The draft PEIR describes the potential environmental impacts from cleanup activities, and identifies actions that DTSC may require the Dept. of
Achievements for Sept. 11 IRP meeting

Energy, NASA, and Boeing to take to avoid or reduce those impacts. The draft PMP serves as a roadmap for completing the cleanup and will assist in managing the complex project. The public comment period is open September 7 through October 23, 2017. http://dtsc.ca.gov/PressRoom/upload/DTSC-Releases-Draft-PEIR-and-Cleanup-Plan-for-Santa-Susana-Field-Lab.pdf

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Request for community participants: Starting in September, DTSC is hosting a three-month Community Dialogue on the management of contaminated soil, including treatment and disposal. The Department wants community input on how best to handle contaminated soil, and develop guidelines for the role of communities in the decision-making process. Meetings to gather input will be held at dates to be determined throughout the state.

Draft Language Access and Civil Rights Policies Released for Public Comment: In DTSC updated, with input from community stakeholders, its Civil Rights Policy and developed a new policy on Language Access. These draft policies were released for public comment on September 5, 2017 in six languages, including English, Spanish, Tagalog, Korean, Chinese, and Vietnamese. DTSC will conduct a webinar to further describe the outreach strategy and policy development process. DTSC will also conduct public scoping sessions in June—through August 2017 for additional community input on the draft policy frameworks.
http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/GetInvolved/EnvironmentalJustice/Kettleman_Agreement.cfm

SAFER CONSUMER PRODUCTS

The Safer Consumer Products (SCP) program will develop a series of workshops and trainings to provide opportunities for in-depth discussion and support on topics related to Alternatives Analysis Guide 1.0. To help shape the focus of those workshops and training sessions, SCP is asking stakeholders to complete a survey. The survey is available until Sept. 22. https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GWJ7L3J

EXIDE TECHNOLOGIES

New Commerce Office Opened: DTSC has opened an office in Commerce to better serve residents who will be affected by the largest residential lead cleanup program of its kind in California history. The office also will house staff involved in the project, which will clean up about 2,500 parcels with the highest levels of lead and greatest risk of exposure.
Invitation for Bid (IFB) for the residential cleanup:

On August 10, 2017, DTSC released the Invitation For Bid (IFB) for the contract for the cleanup in the residential communities around the former Exide Facility in Vernon, CA. This cleanup is the largest ever undertaken in California, and one of the largest in the nation. The project also includes a Project Labor Agreement, negotiated by DTSC. A bidder’s conference was held on August 24, 2017, in Los Angeles. Following the conference, DTSC received 372 questions and posted responses on September 1, 2017. Bids are due on September 18, 2017.

Project Labor Agreement (PLA) Reached: DTSC has negotiated one of the first state-negotiated Project Labor Agreements (PLA) with Los Angeles/Orange County Building Trades Council for the Exide Project. A PLA is a pre-hire collective bargaining agreement with one or more labor organizations that establishes the terms and conditions of employment for a project. PLAs are authorized under the National Labor Relations Act, 29 U.S.C. Sections 151-169, and have been used on publicly-funded projects since the 1980s. However, the State of California has not historically entered into PLAs on its public works projects. Overall goals of the PLA include:

- Cleaning up to 2,500 of the most highly lead-contaminated properties in the Project area.
- Preventing strikes, lockouts, or other work stoppages for the length of the project.
- Providing community economic benefits through local hiring and training.
- Partnering with the local community and labor unions across the Project.
- A specific local hire approach with an emphasis on the impacted communities surrounding the former Exide facility and graduates of the WERC program.

Workshops

The public comment period for the Toxicity Criteria Regulations (R-2016-08) runs until Sept. 21. Two workshops soliciting input were held Aug. 28 and Aug. 31 in Sacramento and Cypress respectively.

http://dtsc.ca.gov/LawsRegsPolicies/Regs/Toxicity-Criteria-for-Human-Health-Risk-Assessment.cfm