



Mendocino County Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) Hazmat Newsletter- December 2023

Fee Changes

The Board of Supervisors has directed Environmental Health (EH) to become 100% fee-based moving forward. In previous years, EH was funded in part by money given to the Health Department from the State of California. The new directive is to have the permit fees and fees for service completely cover the cost of the department.

What this means for businesses is that all fees will see increases as the department shifts away from State revenue sources.

This change will also affect the timelines of permitting in 2024. Please see the insert that accompanies this newsletter for more information on 2023 permit extension and 2024 invoicing.

EH does offer a payment plan for those businesses that opt-in *before* the invoice deadline. Permit costs rise with the volume of material on-site. Businesses looking to reduce their permit costs can evaluate the volume of hazardous material stored on site and identify ways to reduce their volume. Contact your inspector if you have questions on reducing your volume.

State Surcharges

State surcharges are fees or charges imposed by the State of California. These surcharges are applied to facilities or businesses that handle hazardous materials and are subject to regulatory requirements aimed at preventing accidental releases or spills.

Effective October 13, 2023, the CalARP program component of the State surcharge will be increased from \$270 to \$370 per regulated business annually, and the Unified Program Oversight component of the surcharge will be increased from \$84 to \$94 per regulated business annually.

The Underground Storage Tank, Aboveground Petroleum Storage Act, and Refinery Safety components of the State surcharge remain unchanged.

CERS

As a reminder, California Health and Safety code §25508(a)(1) and CCR §2652(a)(1) require businesses to report complete and accurate information to CERS. Inspectors will start enforcing the section more stringently than in previous years, including monetary penalties for those facilities that consistently fail to update their information in CERS.

The software we use to print permits and mail invoices pulls all the information loaded into CERS for billing addresses, mailing addresses, and contact information. Having incomplete or incorrect information in CERS will generate errors in mailing and billing, including not receiving your permit.

Underground Storage Tanks (UST)

- All Single-wall USTs must be closed (removed) by a properly licensed contractor no later than **December 31, 2025**. Ask your inspector for details.
- UST Cleanup fund extension and Replacing, Removing or Upgrading (RUST) grants and loans extension: The Last day to submit applications has been extended from January 1, 2025, to January 1, 2035, with the successful passing of AB 1115.

New Inspector

We've picked up a new inspector in 2023. Jacob Nave will be taking over many of the inspections that were conducted by Nicole Hartsell when she transitioned out of the Hazmat program. Not sure who your inspector is? As a reminder, we have all our inspectors, their desk numbers, and email addresses on our website www.mendocinocounty.gov/EH Just click the "Contact Us" button for a staff directory, including the CUPA program. Feel free skip calling the main line and go right to the inspector to get the help you need.

Need More Help?

We're available to help answer questions, fill out forms, or help you however we can. As mentioned earlier, our website is a great first resource for information. Our website address is www.mendocinocounty.gov/EH

Wishing you all safety and health for 2024. Happy Holidays.



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Link to Environmental
Health's Website