

**County of Santa Clara**  
**Department of Environmental Health**  
**Hazardous Materials Compliance Division**  
1555 Berger Drive, Suite 300  
San Jose, CA 95112-2716  
(408) 918-3400; Fax (408) 280-6479  
www.EHinfo.org/hazmat



December 22, 2008

**Re: Transfer of Underground Storage Tank Permitting and Inspection Responsibility**

Dear UST Contractor:

Effective January 1, 2009, the City of Palo Alto will transfer responsibility for implementing the underground storage tank (UST) portion of the Unified Hazardous Waste and Hazardous Materials Management Program (Unified Program) to Santa Clara County Department of Environmental Health's Hazardous Materials Compliance Division (HMCD).

Palo Alto Fire Department (PAFD) and HMCD are working closely together to ensure that this transition goes as smoothly as possible, with minimal impact on businesses. As a contractor who provides UST services, here are a few things you should know:

- o These changes only impact UST facilities in the City of Palo Alto.
- o UST compliance inspections, and UST system installation, upgrade, and closure plan checking and inspections will be handled by HMCD as of January 1, 2009. Please keep this in mind when submitting plans, notifications of scheduled monitoring system certification testing, secondary containment testing, tank/line tightness testing, and test reports.
- o HMCD requires that owners/operators of UST facilities coordinate annual monitoring system certification testing to coincide with our annual UST compliance inspection. To facilitate this, we require 14 day advance notification. Please keep this in mind when scheduling work in Palo Alto as of the new year.
- o PAFD will continue to regulate aboveground hazardous materials storage and Fire Code compliance. The Fire Department will continue to be the agency with jurisdiction over any installation, modification, closure, or testing activities associated with aboveground hazardous materials storage systems.

All test notifications should be directed to my attention, and I will forward them to the appropriate inspector assigned to the facility in question. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at (408) 918-1978 or send me a eMail at [greg.breshears@deh.sccgov.org](mailto:greg.breshears@deh.sccgov.org).

Sincerely,

Greg Breshears  
Senior Hazardous Materials Specialist  
Hazardous Materials Compliance Division