



CUPA 101

Jason Boetzer, Deputy Secretary, CalEPA

**Kristen Ward, Deputy Fire Marshal, San Bernardino County Fire
W-D1**

March 26, 2025



**27th California Unified Program
Annual Training Conference
March 24-27, 2025**



*California
Environmental
Protection Agency*



Kristen Ward

San Bernardino County Fire

Deputy Fire Marshal

(909) 386-8414

kward@sbcfire.org

Jason Boetzer

CalEPA

Deputy Secretary for Local Programs

and Emergency Response

(916) 715-3005

Jason.Boetzer@calepa.ca.gov

27th California Unified Program
Annual Training Conference
March 24-27, 2025

CUPA 101

What will
this class
cover?

- Environmental History/Laws
- What is a CUPA?
- What have we accomplished and where are we going in the future?
- Local program overview.
- Finding employment in environmental compliance.



Let's Get to Know Each Other

Who are you??

Answers:

1. CUPA/PA
2. State Agency
3. Federal Government
4. Industry
5. Student



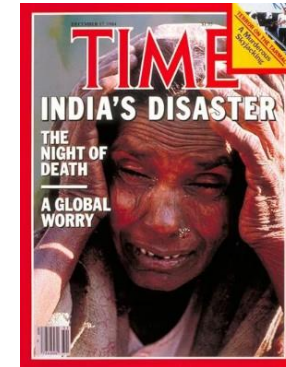
ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY

➤ 1970's

- Minamata, Japan – 1968
- DDT banned – 1972
- Yusho, Japan – PCBs banned 1976
- Love Canal – 1979

➤ 1980's

- Stringfellow Acid Pits – 1982
- Times Beach, Missouri – 1982
- Bhopal, India – 1984 3,800 dead, 558,000 injured
- Exxon Valdez Oil Spill - 1989



FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS

1940-1970's
Pollution Control;
Clean Water Act

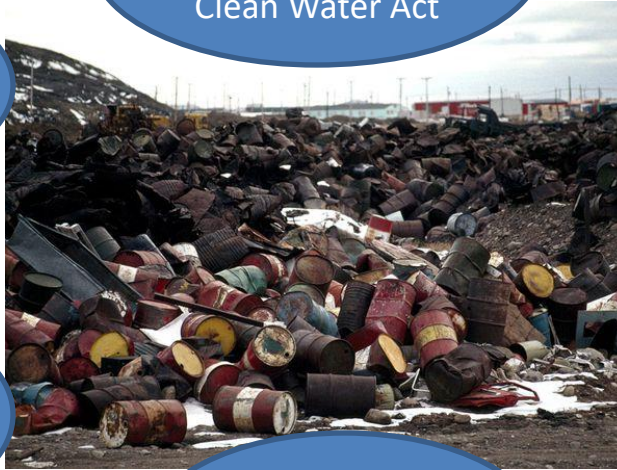
1950-1960's
Air Pollution;
Clean Air Act

1970's
Safe Drinking
Water Act
NEPA

1970's
RCRA & TSCA

1980's
CERCLA; UST;
EPCRA

1990's
CUPA; CalARP;
RMP



EPA/State Health Agencies – Late 1970's

- Original State agencies involved with regulating Hazardous Waste at larger Transfer Storage Disposal-type facilities – CA Dept of Health Services
- CA Hazardous Waste Law – 1978



Early 1980's

- Local hazardous waste programs started in about 22 local agencies
- Numerous criminal cases for spills and accidents



1980's – Explosive Program Growth

- UST – Sher Bill
- Business Plan – Chemical Inventories – 1986
- Local Oversight Program – 1988
- Major Cleanup Efforts
- Increasing Fines, Penalties & Felonies
- More Fire Dept. Involvement
- Military Base Closures



1990's – CalEPA/DTSC



*California
Environmental
Protection Agency*

- 1991 – CalEPA created
- 1991 – DTSC moved from DHS to CalEPA
- Emphasis toward innovation; pollution prevention, waste reduction, etc.
- 1994+ - Unified Program (CUPAs) Development and Certifications
- 1997 - CalARP



January 1994 – SB 1082

- Why a Unified Program?
 - Duplicate inspections
 - Duplicate programs
 - Multiple invoicing and permitting
 - Multiple agencies
- What happened?
 - Legislative process
 - Political climate then and now



2000 and Beyond



- 2001 9-11 Terrorist Acts
- 2005 Katrina
- 2010 Deepwater Horizon
- 2011 Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant
- 2012 Richmond Chevron Refinery Fire
- 2013 West Texas Fertilizer Explosion
- 2015 Aliso Canyon Natural Gas Leak
- 2014 California Wild Fires
- 2019 Ridgecrest Earthquake
- 2023 Statewide Flooding

Chemical Safety Board
<https://www.csb.gov/>



Certified Unified Program Agencies and Participating Agencies

- 81 CUPAs – most with no PAs
- 24 PAs via agreements
- Most are “fire” or “environmental health” entities
- State certification process in mid 1990’s
- 1990’s also was the time where CUPA regulations were developed
- Ongoing State evaluation of implementation of the program



SB 1082 Unified Programs

Hazardous Waste Generator Program and Tiered Permitting

Hazardous Materials Inventory (Disclosure)

Accidental Release Prevention Program

Underground Storage Tanks

Aboveground Petroleum Storage Tanks

California Fire Code – HM Plans/Inventory only



SB 1082 Program Goals

Combined Inspections

Consistent Inspections/Enforcement

Interagency Coordination

Single Fee System

Consolidated Permit



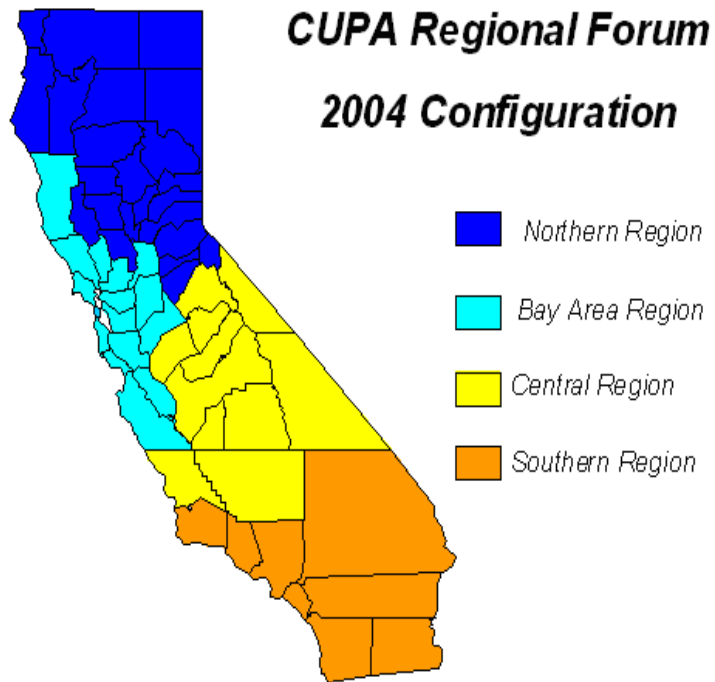
Regulated Universe 2023-2024

- Business Plan Facilities: 150,696
- CalARP Facilities: 1,996
- Hazardous Waste Facilities: 94,589
- Underground Tank Facilities: 13,631
- Aboveground Tank Facilities: 17,755



Unified Program Led to the CUPA Forum

- 1996 – UPAs unite in a CUPA Forum to consolidate efforts and provide a single voice to the State and federal agencies
- 1998 – UPAAG established
- 1998 – CUPA Forum begins holding annual conferences



Accomplishments

Enhanced and increased interagency cooperation on a large range of issues

Development of legislation/regulations through cooperative efforts

Large number of stakeholders kept informed and involved

Increased and consistent enforcement

ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE



Accomplishments

Major reductions of incidents at high risk facilities through CalARP

Improved and streamlined State performance review process

Title 27 Data Dictionary – CERS Changes

Tired Permit Program moved to locals

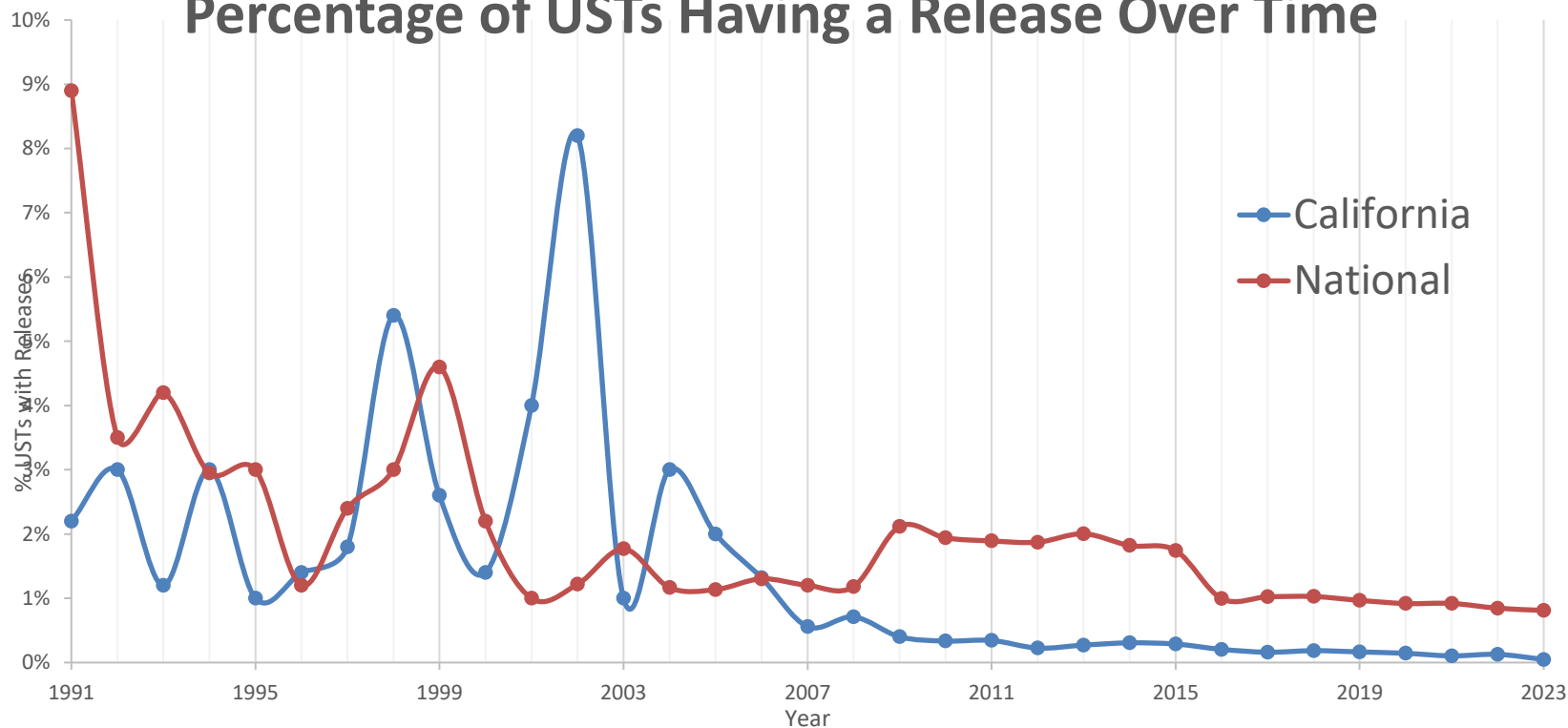
Standard Violation Classification

Statewide Enforcement Cases/Administrative Enforcement Orders

SB 122-July 10, 2023 Granted CalEPA inspection and enforcement authority for the CalARP and HMBP programs.



Percentage of USTs Having a Release Over Time



UPAAG New UP Strategic Plan

- Educating and Influencing Stakeholders
- Attracting and Retaining Highly Skilled Staff
- Leveraging Budgets
- Ensure Equitable Enforcement
- Using Technology to Achieve Strategies



Environmental Justice

- Principles of environmental justice
- California was one of the first states in the nation to codify environmental justice in statute
- The aim is to lift the unfair burden of pollution from those most vulnerable to its effects
- CalEnviroScreen 4.0
 - <https://oehha.ca.gov/calenviroscreen/report/calenviroscreen-40>



A Shifting Workplace

- Program innovators are retiring; new workforce training is critical.
- Face of regulatory programs continuing to evolve at State and local levels.
- Technology is making us look at how we do our work.
- Lessons learned during 2020



Your Career

- Would you like a career in a field that has opportunities in federal, state, and local government as well as private industry?
- Would you like a career that involves field work and the direct application of many disciplines and specialties?
- Would you like to work for the public good?



Employment

How do you find the jobs and apply?

- Website
- Contacts within Agencies
- Personnel Offices
- Job Search engines
- Professional Networking



Resources

- <http://www.calcupa.org>
- <http://www.ccdeh.com/jobs/env-health-haz-mat-jobs>
- <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/Enforcement/Publications>
- <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/CUPA/>
- <https://calepa.ca.gov/employment/>





Any Questions?

Jason Boetzer – CalEPA

Kristen Ward – San Bernardino County Fire

