



Paramount Chromium Emissions Investigation

Los Angeles County Fire Department
Health Hazardous Materials Division



In November 2016, the Los Angeles County Fire Department's Health Hazardous Materials Division (HHMD) was tasked to assist the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) with the investigation of industrial facilities in the City of Paramount regarding the emissions of hexavalent chromium in air. HHMD is responsible for regulating the handling of hazardous materials and generation of hazardous waste, as the Certified Unified Program Agency in the Los Angeles County area.

Background

In early 2013, local community members in the City of Paramount expressed their concerns regarding industrial facilities emitting metallic odors and potentially cancer causing substances. As a result, AQMD began conducting an investigation into local sources of air emissions, including an air sampling study around the areas of Vermont and California Avenue, near Carlton Forge Works (Carlton). In 2014 and 2015, AQMD worked with Carlton to reduce metal particulate emissions from their grinding operations. Carlton implemented a number of voluntary measures that reduced nickel levels. In October 2016, as part of the ongoing investigation to identify and address sources of hexavalent chromium, AQMD deployed several monitors in the areas of Paramount upwind of Carlton. Air monitor results revealed elevated levels of hexavalent chromium near the industrial facilities located at the intersections of Madison Street and Minnesota and Garfield Avenues. As a result, AQMD requested assistance from HHMD for the handling of hazardous materials; the Department of Public Health (DPH) to address community health concerns; and the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) to establish a state regulatory presence.

HHMD Inspection Activities

In November 2016, as the result of the elevated levels of hexavalent chromium detected by AQMD, an investigation of the industrial facilities near the intersections of Madison Street and Minnesota and Garfield Avenues was conducted by HHMD. A general sweep of city blocks within Garfield Avenue, Jefferson Street, Illinois Avenue and Alondra Boulevard resulted in approximately 78 facilities being surveyed. Aircraft Heat Treating (Aerocraft), Anaplex Corporation (Anaplex) and Pro Cast Industries (Pro Cast) were identified as the potential sources of hexavalent chromium.



Picture 1: Inspection activities conducted by HHMD.



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In early December 2016, the investigation of industrial facilities continued in the City of Paramount. HHMD surveyed approximately 88 additional facilities. Aeroforming was identified as another potential source of hexavalent chromium.

On December 20, 2016, as a result of the two industrial facility surveys, HHMD conducted full inspections at Anaplex, Aerocraft, Pro Cast, Aeroforming, Carlton, and Golden State Engineering (Golden State). Violations were observed at Aerocraft, Pro Cast and Aeroforming regarding hazardous waste dusts accumulated on the facility floors. Notice of Violations were issued to Aerocraft, Pro Cast and Aeroforming to mitigate the accumulated dusts. Minor violations were observed at Anaplex and Carlton unrelated to the hexavalent chromium emissions. No violations were observed at Golden State.

On December 30, 2016, HHMD received word from AQMD regarding elevated chromium sample results detected from the roof top of Anaplex. As a result, HHMD was dispatched to mitigate the potential release. Upon arrival, Anaplex indicated that the roof top had previously been cleaned. No mitigation measures were deemed necessary at that time.



Picture 2: Facilities of concern inspected by HHMD.

On January 4, 2017, HHMD conducted a follow-up inspection at Anaplex. No violations were observed. Also, Anaplex implemented numerous air pollution control measures, as required by AQMD.

In late January, 2017, HHMD conducted inspections at Weber Metals, Press Forge and Mattco Forge. No violations were observed in relation to the hexavalent chromium emissions.

HHMD Sampling Activities

In mid-November 2016, HHMD surveyed the public right-a-ways for heavy metals near the intersection of Madison Street and Minnesota and Garfield Avenues. HHMD personnel used X-ray fluorescence (XRF) technology to screen soils found in planters, sidewalks and street gutters.

In late November and early December 2016, HHMD returned to the intersections of Madison Street and Minnesota and Garfield Avenues to validate the screening results. Soil samples were collected from surface soils of the sidewalk planters, and from accumulated dusts from within the sidewalks in close proximity to



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Anaplex, Aircraft, Leon Polish, Pro Cast and Aeroforming. Seventeen samples were collected in total. Sample results revealed elevated levels of nickel and chromium in close proximity to Aircraft only.

Pending Actions

On January 26, 2017, HHMD Investigations Unit issued an Order-to-Comply to Aircraft regarding the release of hazardous waste into the environment. Specifically, Aircraft was ordered to immediately clean up and investigate all affected areas. Clean-up activities are being finalized and will be implemented as soon as possible.

Additional enforcement issues within the areas of concern are currently being considered. However, no information is available at this time.

HHMD is continuing to conduct routine inspections in the City of Paramount and also work in cooperation with AQMD, DPH, DTSC, and the City of Paramount. For more information regarding HHMD activities, please contact this Department.

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5825 Rickenbacker Road, Commerce, CA 90040

Phone: (323) 890-4045 / Fax: (323) 890-4046

E-mail: askhhmd@fire.lacounty.gov

For additional information regarding activities in the City of Paramount, please see the following websites.

South Coast Air Quality Management District

<http://www.aqmd.gov/home/regulations/compliance/air-monitoring-activities>

Department of Public Health

<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/airtoxins/>

City of Paramount

<https://paramountenvironment.org/>