



# CPSC

**California Product  
Stewardship Council** SM

## Emerging HHW Issues: Small Gas Cylinders

November 2, 2016

# CPSC Board and Organization



- 14 Member Board:

<http://calpsc.org/about-us/meet-the-board-members/>

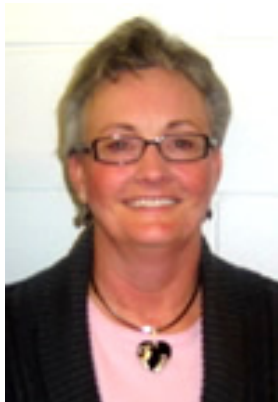
- 5 of 14 are private sector members



Doug Kobold, County of Sacramento  
Chair



Gretchen Olsen, Stockton  
Vice-Chair



Lynn France, City of Chula Vista  
Secretary



Kristina Miller, City of Corning  
Treasurer

## CPSC Mission – Goals of EPR

To shift California's product waste management system from one focused on government funded and ratepayer financed waste diversion to one that relies on producer responsibility in order **to reduce public costs and drive improvements in product design that promote environmental sustainability.**

# We Support Voluntary Product Stewardship That Works!

- Finding and supporting companies that lead
- Partnering: Flame King for Propane 1lb. Cylinders & Cultivation Technology Inc. for Butane Canisters
- Saving local governments and tribes money
- Ensuring waste stream is recyclable
- Demonstrating voluntary partnerships work!

# Issues with Small Gas Cylinders

- Cost to manage
- Damage – flammable
- Illegal dumping in nature, trash, recycling



# Butane Canisters

Used to make honey oil (AKA Hash Oil), a resin obtained from the extraction of marijuana. It is a concentrated form of marijuana.

## Honey Oil



Credit: The Chill Bud



Credit: Opengrow

**Must be punctured to recycle**

## 07-2016 Explosion in Santa Rosa



Credit: The Press Democrat

# Honey Oil Lab Explosions

**Butane is more dense than oxygen. All that is needed is static from a shoe to cause an explosion!**



**Credit: Tuluwat Examiner**



**Credit: Action News Now**

# Honey Oil Lab Explosion



Credit :Humboldt County Sheriff's Office





# Department of Toxic Substances Control

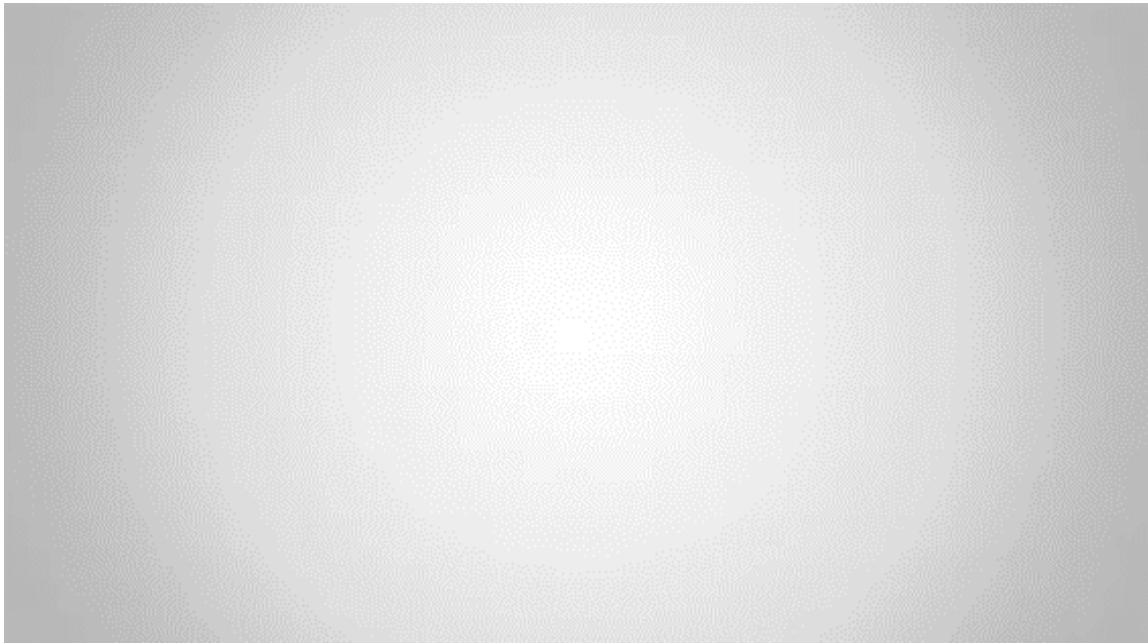


Excerpts from Fact Sheet: "DTSC response in marijuana labs is booming"

- **Explosions from the use of butane gas to extract THC from marijuana are getting more common**
- **Butane is hazardous waste, so DTSC often gets the call when firefighters or police responding to report of has oil lab or explosion **find telltale canisters.****
- **2014: 18 reports of abandoned butane canisters**

# Butane Extraction and Cylinders

- Show Video explaining extraction



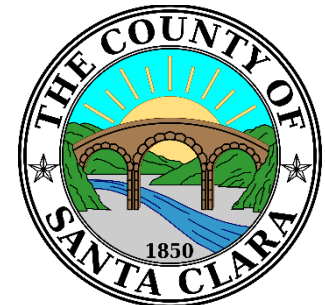
# Costs to Local Governments

## County of Santa Clara

Waste Category (Waste type generated at County facilities)	WMM	HM	Meter Box	85-Gallon Drum	55-Gallon Drum	30-Gallon Drum	20-Gallon Drum	10-Gallon Drum	5-Gallon Drum	Other
PROPANE/ BUTANE CYLINDERS <1.5 LITER SIZE	RC	LO	\$287.00	N/A	\$120.00	\$90.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 25.00	N/A
PROPANE/ BUTANE CYLINDERS >1.5 LITER TO <5 GALLON SIZE	RC	PALLET	\$287.00	N/A	\$120.00	\$90.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 25.00	N/A
PROPANE/ BUTANE CYLINDERS >5 GALLON SIZE	RC	PALLET	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$3.00/EA



**Rob D'Arcy,  
County of Santa Clara**



# Trinity County, CA



**“We are seeing a large amount of the cylinders disposed at transfer stations in our county Trinity, as well as a number of them are dumped illegally over the side of mountain roads... some containers might not be empty and it is a matter of time that one will cause a fire during compaction of garbage in our trucks... This isn't a Trinity County problem. I hear other counties with the same problems.”**

**Cathie Rash, Solid Waste Technician III,  
Trinity County**

# Trinity County, CA



**Pictured: Trinity  
County Transfer  
Station**



**“Note the two blue and white containers – these are butane canisters. **These bags are all full of these canisters.**”**

**-Barbara Heinsch, Environmental Scientist, CalRecycle**

# City of Huntington Beach, CA

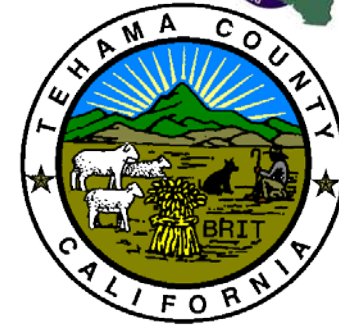
**“...the proper disposal of the cartridges certainly would be questionable. I imagine, the cartridges simply went out with all the other household trash.”**

**Bill Reardon, Fire Marshal / Division Chief,  
Huntington Beach Fire Department**





# Tehama County, CA



**“The Tehama County/Red Bluff Landfill has uncovered 1,600 canisters in the last six months –this is simply what has been found after self haulers leave the site or during load checks. I suspect much, much more goes undiscovered hidden in dumpster loads that head directly to the Landfill, which creates another risk of explosion.”**

**Kristina Miller, Former Manager  
Tehama County Solid Waste Management Agency**

# City of Corning, CA

**“...the City of Corning passed an ordinance that bans the purchase of more than 2 canisters of not more than 840 mL in size total per month per consumer within the City limits. Unfortunately the City cannot regulate sales outside of its jurisdiction (online sales are particularly problematic). As such, I expect the problem to continue.**

**On the disposal side I ultimately would like to see the state pass EPR legislation for butane canisters...I see this as both a disposal issue and a public health and safety issue.**



**Kristina Miller,  
Corning City Manager**





# Other States: Oregon



**“...we get a surprising number of them coming into our HHW/CESQG facilities... My crew tells me they are kind of a pain to process.”**

**- Jim Quinn, Hazardous Waste Program Manager, Metro**



# AB 2679: Medical Marijuana

**Assemblymember Ken Cooley**

**Signed by the Governor – 9/29/16**



**Protects local butane cannabis extraction facilities from criminal prosecution if they follow clear standards of conduct.**

**“The collective or cooperative receives and maintains approval from the local fire official for the **closed-loop system**, other equipment, the extraction operation, and the facility.”**

# Tehama County Ordinance Passed 2/16

**“...our HHW disposal costs for FY 15/16 increased dramatically as compared to FY 14/15 (nearly 25%). Handling these materials is stretching our operating budget quite thin.**

**While I think the intent of the ordinance was honorable, without restrictions on online ordering, I don't think we will see any real results. In recent weeks, we received nearly 50 canisters of butane from the DA for disposal.”**

**Rachel Ross, Tehama County Solid Waste Management Agency**

# What's Next?

- **Limit the sale of butane canisters** as was done with **Sudafed**. You can't buy pseudoephedrine hydrochloride on Amazon any more. You can only buy phenylephrine, which cannot be utilized in the manufacture of methamphetamine.
- Regulation of butane on the retail level will have little effect without **restricting online sales**.
- Regulation without **tracking and enforcement** will have little effect, hence the need for DOJ to be prepared to set up a similar tracking system of purchase as they did with CURES for opioids.
- EPR for butane canisters similar to ARB small can refrigerant containers
- Other ideas?

# 11b. Need Collection Solutions!



# Thank you for your support!



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**[www.CalPSC.org](http://www.CalPSC.org)**

**Connect!**

