

The Spill Report

Colorado Environmental Crimes Task Force
January 2017

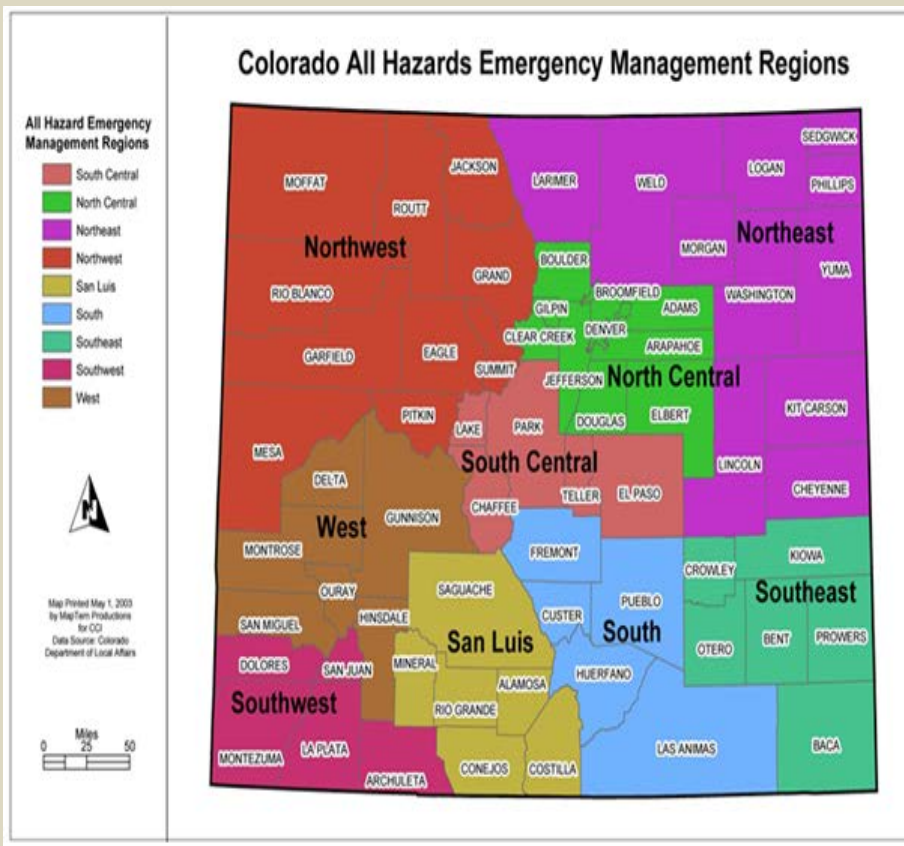


Newsletter Launch!

Welcome to the first issue of *The Spill Report*, the quarterly newsletter for the Colorado Environmental Crimes Task Force.

The purpose of *The Spill Report* is to keep Task Force members up to date on criminal/civil investigations and outcomes, distribute information about trends in the environmental enforcement community, training, and meeting updates and share insightful information with the members.

Regional Task Forces



The Colorado Environmental Crime Regional Task Forces are broken up into regions based on the CO All Hazards Emergency Management Regions – see map. The idea behind the regional task forces is to facilitate and encourage networking among the members of each region.

It is the mission of the task force to hold meetings for each region. If you would like to be the coordinator for your region and assist with the planning of meetings, please contact Troy Arnold at troy.arnold@coag.gov.





Criminal Case Updates

United States v. WillMax Capital Management, Inc.

U.S. District Court of the State of Colorado

On December 14, 2016, WillMax Capital Management, Inc., pleaded guilty to violating the Clean Air Act for releasing asbestos into the air during a renovation project. Specifically, the company knowingly failed, prior to the commencement of the renovation, to thoroughly inspect the part of the facility where the renovation operation was to occur for the presence of asbestos.

In early 2014, the Overlook at Mile High Apartment Complex underwent renovations. WillMax hired A&A Hauling and Concrete to sand asbestos-containing mastic glue off of concrete floors located in the common areas. The complex is comprised of multiple towers, each with approximately 50 units. The sanding of the asbestos, which occurred with no required precautions to protect people from exposure to asbestos, resulted in a "major" asbestos spill, exposing more than 100 residents, workers, firefighters, and others to carcinogenic asbestos fibers that were made airborne. Dust from the unpermitted operation resulted in contamination of hallways, stairwells, the interior of some apartments, and tenants' personal property. As a result, over 100 tenants were evacuated and housed in nearby hotels. A&A and Overlook workers were not provided with any form of personal protective equipment and were not informed that the mastic glue contained asbestos, nor were the tenants advised of any asbestos-related work. John Tom Williams pleaded guilty to a CAA negligent endangerment violation for his role in the illegal asbestos removal. Williams was an employee of WillMax and is also a member of the partnership that owns the Overlook.



The plea agreement with the company says it will pay restitution and the cost of a medical monitoring program for individuals who were exposed to asbestos as a result of the CAA violation, as well as the cost of notifying those individuals of the availability of the program. Williams is not obligated to pay for the medical monitoring program. Sentencing is scheduled for March 22, 2017.

This case was investigated by U.S. EPA Criminal Investigation Division Special Agents Tara Donn and Tamara Solari and Colorado Attorney General's Environmental Crimes Investigator Troy Arnold. The case was prosecuted by AUSA Thomas O'Rourke and SAUSA Linda Kato. Task force members who assisted in the investigation include Ben Siller and Stacey Guillaume, Denver Environmental Health and Laura Shumpert and Curtis Burns, CDPHE Indoor Air Unit.

****Do you have an interesting case to share – send a short summary to troy.arnold@coag.gov**



Upcoming Trainings and Meetings

February 23, 2017 – 1:00-4:00: Colorado Environmental Crimes Task Force meeting at EPA National Enforcement Investigations Center, Lakewood, CO.

- Presentation by EPA NEIC Toxicologist Kristen Keteles – “Toxicology and Environmental Crimes: Answering “So what?”
- Tour of the NEIC Lab.
(Directions and visitor information forthcoming)

February 16, 2017 – 9:30-12:00: Colorado Hazardous Materials Group Meeting at CDPHE. Contact Randy Perlis for information at randy.perlis@state.co.us

****Send training and meeting announcements to troy.arnold@coag.gov**

Environmental Crime News

(From across the Nation and across the Pond!)

Useful contact info:

Troy Arnold - Investigator
CO AG's Office
Environmental Crimes Unit
720-508-6728
troy.arnold@coag.gov
Click [here](#) to report an environmental crime.

Matt Dehart – Special Agent
U.S. EPA - Criminal Division
303-312-6482
dehart.matthew@epa.gov

CDPHE Spill Line:
877-518-5608

US EPA Region 8 On Duty
On-Scene Coordinator --
Technical support for
hazmat and oils spills: 303-
293-1788

Volkswagen AG Agrees to Plead Guilty and Pay \$4.3 Billion in Criminal and Civil Penalties; Six Volkswagen Executives and Employees are Indicted in Connection with Conspiracy to Cheat U.S. Emissions Tests:

[VW to Pay \\$4.3 Billion in Emissions Cheating](#)

Tackling illegal dumping in DC

[Environmental Crimes Unit is cleaning up DC one illegal dump at a time](#)

Think twice before you “Fly Tip”!

[Fly-tippers warned after two Watford residents handed hefty fines](#)

***Read an interesting story that you would like to share – email the link to troy.arnold@coag.gov**

Thanks to Lindsay Masters at CDPHE for designing the new task force logo!

