Certified Unified Program Agency

CAL FIRE Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) is one of five state organizations involved in overseeing the Unified Program. California’s Secretary for Environmental Protection established the unified hazardous materials and hazardous waste regulatory program as required by Chapter 6.11 of the California Health and Safety Code. The Unified Program consolidates the administration, permits, inspections, and enforcement activities of the following six programs:

- Hazardous Materials Release Response Plan and Inventory (HMRRP or Business Plan)
- California Accidental Release Prevention (CalARP)
- Underground Storage Tank (UST)
- Aboveground Petroleum Storage Act (APSA)
- Hazardous Waste Generator and Onsite Hazardous Waste Treatment (Tiered Permitting)
- California Fire Code: Hazardous Materials Management Plans (HMMP) and Hazardous Materials Inventory Statements (HMIS)

The local Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) is required to consolidate, coordinate, and make consistent the administrative requirements, permits, fee structures, and inspection and enforcement activities for these six program elements within its jurisdiction. Most CUPAs have been established as a function of a local environmental health or fire department. The Unified Program is implemented at the local level by 83 government agencies certified by the Secretary of California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA).

The state agency partners involved in the Unified Program have the responsibility of setting program element standards, working with CalEPA on ensuring program consistency and providing technical assistance to the Unified Program Agencies. The OSFM is responsible for ensuring the implementation of the California Fire Code HMMP/HMIS and the APSA program elements. The HMMP/HMIS program ties in closely with the HMRRP (Business Plan) program.

CUPA Evaluations

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