

News Release



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A.A. Sydcol, LLC of Yuma to Pay \$30,000 Penalty to Resolve Hazardous Waste Violations in Yuma County

PHOENIX (Oct. 18, 2011) – The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) and Arizona Attorney General's Office announced today that A.A. Sydcol, LLC of Yuma has agreed to pay a \$30,000 penalty for hazardous waste violations at its waste management plant in Yuma County.

The Sydcol facility serves as a transfer facility for waste from off-site generators and its services include recycling and consolidation of waste before it is transported by another company to landfills in the area.

During an inspection of the facility by ADEQ's Hazardous Waste Inspections and Compliance Unit in September 2007, compliance officers noticed a strong odor of solvents coming from 85 55-gallon drums of waste paint, some of which were open, on a loading dock.

A company employee then poured the material from part of several drums into an open metal pan and lit it on fire with matches, a test he referred to as the "open flame ignitability" test. The recommended way to conduct the test is to send a sample to a State of Arizona certified laboratory for a flash-point determination or an equivalent test method approved by ADEQ.

Solid waste that is ignitable is a type of regulated hazardous waste which Sydcol cannot legally possess or send to a solid waste landfill for disposal.

A.A. Sydcol, LLC was issued a notice of violation in February 2008 for failure to perform a proper waste determination, failure to follow preparedness and prevention requirements and failure to properly manifest hazardous waste.

"In addition to these serious violations, the company employee put himself, co-workers and ADEQ inspectors at risk by striking a match in that environment," ADEQ Director Henry Darwin said.

"Arizona companies must comply with the requirements that guide hazardous waste handling and disposal," said Arizona Attorney General Tom Horne.

The consent judgment is subject to court approval.

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