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## **Heritage Environmental Services of Coolidge to Pay \$125,000 Penalty to Resolve Violations from Chemical Fire**

PHOENIX (Aug. 19, 2009) – Heritage Environmental Services, a Coolidge area hazardous waste facility, will pay \$125,000 under a consent judgment with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality for violations incurred when eight pallets of waste nitrocellulose film burned in 2006.

The consent judgment includes a \$75,000 civil penalty and \$50,000 to fund a Supplemental Environmental Project in which Heritage will perform chemical cleanup work in schools in the area.

The fire occurred on Aug. 5, 2006 when the pallets of film and film canisters ignited after being exposed to the sun. Four nearby homes were evacuated but no one was injured.

ADEQ issued a Notice of Violation to the company for storage of hazardous waste in a non-permitted area of the facility; failure to take precautions to prevent accidental ignition and minimize the possibility of fire, explosion, or release of hazardous waste; and misidentification of hazardous waste on a shipping manifest.

"Their chemical fire put residents at risk so the penalty is steep but the company is stepping up to improve operations and help community efforts to reduce chemical exposure in schools," said ADEQ Director Benjamin H. Grumbles.

"This was a serious incident requiring a serious response," said Arizona Attorney General Terry Goddard. "Companies handling hazardous wastes must know that Arizona will hold them to the law so that the public is protected."

The consent judgment is subject to court approval.