Purpose

The Fire Department assumes responsibility for oversight of all clean-up and/or treatment of contaminated soils. As chemicals tend to spread through soil in several ways, soil found to be contaminated shall be remediated in a manner acceptable and appropriate to the Santa Rosa Fire Department.

This document shall address soil contamination which is caused by the presence of man-made chemicals or other alteration in the natural soil environment. This type of contamination typically arises from the rupture of underground storage tanks, application of pesticides, percolation of contaminated surface water to subsurface strata, oil and fuel dumping, leaching of wastes from landfills or direct discharge of industrial wastes to the soil. The most common chemicals involved are petroleum hydrocarbons, solvents, pesticides, lead and other heavy metals. This occurrence of this phenomenon is correlated with the degree of industrializations and intensities of chemical usage.

"Remedial action" means any action taken by a responsible party to clean up a released waste, to abate the effects of a released waste, or to prevent, minimize, or mitigate damages that may result from the release of a waste. "Remedial action" includes the restoration, rehabilitation, or replacement of any natural resource damaged or lost as a result of the release of a waste.

Code References

Being revised

Required Inspections

Inspections will be scheduled by a Santa Rosa Fire Department Fire Inspector with the contractor who has obtained the permit. Inspections may include the entire remediation project or may be exclusively for the purpose of inspecting a specific area on the site.

Permit Information

A permit is required to remediate all soil that has been determined to contain any substance that is considered a hazardous waste. A remediation permit shall be required for excavation of surface or subsurface contamination. A separate permit shall be required for the installation of any on-site soil or groundwater treatment system. A remediation permit is required for soil which remains in the vicinity after the removal of hoists, tanks, or as a result of a surface spill, or
any other situation which has occurred which leads the Santa Rosa Fire Department to believe contamination exists. Initial determination shall be made by first sampling the soil and obtaining results to verify the condition of the soil.

1. ☐ ☐ A permit application must include what type of soil remediation permit is being requested.

2. ☐ ☐ What type of material is being removed.

3. ☐ ☐ Where the excavated soil will go. (The Santa Rosa Fire Department does not allow contaminated soil to be moved to any site within the City limits of Santa Rosa. All soil must be removed to an approved landfill.)

Additional Permits

Additional permits may also be required by the Building Department for back filling the excavation, by the County Environmental Health Department for well installations, by OSHA for shoring of the excavation, and/or by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) for air stripping of soil.

*All work performed must be conducted by a contractor with a current State Contractor's License (A, C-36, C-61/D40) and Hazardous Waste Certification, Workman's Compensation Insurance and a City of Santa Rosa Business License.*

General Information

Soil samples to determine the need for soil remediation shall be collected in the presence of a Fire Inspector.

If contamination is verified, the Santa Rosa Fire Department has a clean up expectation of non-detect and will direct the clean up based on all information available in regards to the site. If it is determined that an alternate method of remediation is appropriate the Santa Rosa Fire Department may consider all potential clean up methods to remediate the contamination.

Clean up and Remediation Actions

For information concerning clean-up responsibilities and requirements for contaminated groundwater, or for information concerning the State UST Cleanup Funds provided by Senate Bill 2004, contact the California Regional Water Quality Control Board. North Coast Region at:

Although the RWQCB is the responsible agency for groundwater remediation, the Fire Department requires a copy of all status reports, and may require additional plans or permits for the installation of remediation equipment.