



Humboldt County Department of Health and Human Services

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Date: Monday, May 23, 2011

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Release of Transformer Oil Closes Blue Lake Boulevard near Highway 299

The Division of Environmental Health (DEH) investigated reports of a release of transformer oil resulting from an illegal roadside dumping incident on a stretch of old Highway 299 known as Blue Lake Boulevard near the town of Blue Lake.

The quantity and exact contents of the transformer are unknown at this time, but may include polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) which are known to be hazardous to human health and the environment. Samples were taken on Monday, May 23, 2011 and results are expected May 24.

The affected area includes Blue Lake Boulevard, both south and north of Highway 299, and may include small portions of the highway adjacent to Blue Lake Boulevard near the weigh station. Blue Lake Boulevard is closed for cleanup between Maple Creek Road and Highway 299.

In addition to DEH staff, Humboldt County Department of Public Works, Humboldt County Sheriff's Department and the California Highway Patrol responded to the incident location. California Redwood Company also responded as some of the spilled oil leaked onto their property.

California Redwood Company reported the spill promptly and, as of this morning, has retained the services of a licensed contractor to initiate cleanup of the spill. DEH and the Sheriff's Office are investigating the circumstances of the spill.

If you have questions about environmental issues associated with this event, or information that may be useful to the investigation, please contact the Humboldt County Division of Environmental Health at (707) 445-6215.

Environmental Health is a Division of the Public Health Branch of the Humboldt County Department of Health and Human Services.

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