

NEWS RELEASE

DISTRICT ATTORNEY SETTLES ASBESTOS CASE WITH COLOR SPOT NURSERIES, INC.

The Monterey County District Attorney's Office, Consumer and Environmental Protection Unit reached a settlement with Color Spot Nurseries, Inc. for violations of asbestos related environmental laws and regulations. Color Spot agreed to pay \$199,990 in civil penalties, costs and remediation expenses.

The violations occurred during a 2008 removal of asbestos containing thermal system insulation and contaminated soil found at a Color Spot facility in Salinas. Color Spot transported asbestos waste to another facility in Salinas without complying with hazardous waste requirements.

The case was investigated by the Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District which has authority to enforce asbestos regulations in the tri-county area. Color Spot ultimately hired a contractor to properly bag, transport and dispose of the asbestos as hazardous waste.

The settlement agreement included reimbursement for agency costs and penalty sharing among the Monterey County District Attorney's Office and Department of Environmental Health, as well as the Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District, the Division of Occupational Safety and Health and the Department of Toxic Substances Control.