

# A Partnership: Salt Lake County Environmental Crimes Task Force

“Reduce the incidence of environmental pollution in Salt Lake County by enhanced criminal and civil enforcement through public and enforcement network awareness and training of participating agencies.”

# Introductions

- **Lt. Alex Huggard, Criminal Investigator**

Salt Lake County District Attorney's Office  
2001 S. State Street, S3600  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84190  
Office (385)468-7764  
Cell (801)201-1548

- **Ronald Lund, Emergency Response Coordinator**

Salt Lake County Health Department  
Environmental Health Division  
788 E. Woodoak Lane  
Murray, Utah 84107  
(385)468-3902  
(801)231-8316  
24-Hour (801) 580-6681



# Topics

- Why A Task Force
- Salt Lake County Demographic
- Task Force Overview
- Task Force Purpose--Achieving These Actions
- Environmental Crimes Settlement Fund

# Why A Task Force???



# Proactive vs. Reactive (46 calls; 23 citations)



# Proactive 10 calls; 6 citations



# Persistence & Consistency



# Demographic

- Salt Lake County
  - 17 Cities
  - 18 Storm Water Agencies
  - 18 Code Enforcement Agencies
  - 8 Police Agencies
  - 8 Fire Agencies
  - Agencies vary in regulatory authority
  - 1 Million People

# District Attorney's Office

- Environmental & Health Unit Coordination
  - SLCoHD Agency Representation
  - Regulatory Compliance & Enforcement
  - Environmental Task Force
  - Western States Project
- D.A. Staff:
    - 2 Administrative Attorneys
    - Investigator
    - Paralegal
    - Misdemeanor Attorney
    - Felony Attorney

# Division of Environmental Health

- Bureau of Water Quality & Hazardous Waste
  - Processing Facilities, Used Oil, Solid & Hazardous Waste
  - HHW Facility
    - Disposal of chemicals
  - **24 hour Emergency Response (801)580-6681**
- Bureau of Sanitation & Safety
  - Meth Contamination
  - Public Lodging
  - Body Art, Massage, Cosmetology Permitting
  - Housing
  - Solid Waste Cleanup
- Bureau of Food Protection
  - Retail Food Safety
  - Disease Investigation
  - Unauthorized Food Sources
- Bureau of Air Pollution Control
  - Vehicle Emissions Inspection and Maintenance Program

# SLCoHD Enforcement Tools

- Unincorporated and incorporated areas
- Duties include enforcement of:
  - State health laws and rules
  - Health Department regulations
  - Responsibility to public health
- Administrative Process
  - Warning Letters
  - Notice of Violation
  - Permit Suspension
- Criminal
  - 21A-1-123
  - Health Regulations
  - State Rules

# Examples of Environmental Crimes

- Concrete Wastewater Discharge
- Carpet Cleaners Discharge
- Restaurant Grease & Wastewater
- Auto Shops (Cleaning wastewater)
- Oil Lube Businesses
- Chemical Applicators



## There are Many Other Environmental Crimes

- Illegal Dumping
- Waste Tires
- Medical & Biohazards Wastes
- Used Oil
- Methamphetamine Labs (Chemically Contaminated Properties) I.E. Hotel Rooms, Apartments, Residence.
- Hoarding
- Lead Acid Batteries
- Anti-Freeze

# Creating a Task Force

## Need a COMMON GOAL

- Lead Agency/Agencies
  - Partners
    - We All Bring Tools
  - Resources
- Political Will
  - Learn From Others
  - Relationships
- 
- FOOD



# Environmental Crimes Task Force

- ◎ Originated in 1991
  - ◎ (Law Enforcement, Fire, D.A.)
- ◎ Jurisdiction of Salt Lake County
- ◎ Jointly organized by Salt Lake County Attorney's Office & Health Department
- ◎ Recognized by County Commission in 1992
- ◎ Primary Goal
  - Exchange information to support environmental enforcement

# Task Force Participants

Salt Lake County Health Department

Salt Lake County District Attorney

Utah Office of the Attorney General

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Local Fire Department

Local Emergency Planning Committee

Utah Department of Agriculture & Food

Local Planning and Zoning

Utah Department of Environmental Quality

Utah Occupational Safety and Health

Utah Division of Occupational Licensing

Utah Adult Protective Services

Municipal Storm Water Agencies  
(SLC, SSL, Murray, Sandy)

Municipal Public Works  
(SLC, Central Valley)

Municipal Police, Sheriff

Municipal Code Enforcement

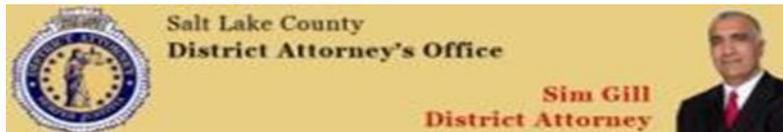
(Murray, Sandy, Cottonwood Heights, West Valley, South  
Jordan, West Jordan)

County Flood Control

Municipal Attorneys and Prosecutors  
(SSL)



UTAH DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH**



# Task Force Purpose

- Coordinate information and resources between agencies.
- Expand awareness of environmental violations.
- Improve training of local government agencies.
- Increase public awareness.
- Increase enforcement referrals.
- Solve problems with all enforcement tools available.

# Coordinate Information and Resources Between Agencies

## Task Force Meeting

- Held on 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday
- Meeting:
  - Announcements
  - Training (10-15 minutes)
  - New Cases (Health and other agencies)
  - Case Updates
  - Settlement Details

# Expand Awareness, Train Government Agencies, Public Awareness

# Why Train?

## Taylorville Waste Discharge

**Penalty \$1,581.50**

**Abeyance \$500**

**Pollution Prevention Plan**



# Agency

## Environmental Crimes Training

- Utah Civil Attorney's Conference
- Western States Project
- Utah Peace Officer's Association
- Governor's Public Safety Summit
- Utah Environmental Health Association
- UOCA
- Murray City (PD, Public Works, Code)
- Sandy City (all Agencies)
- Salt Lake County Field Staff
- Police
- Region 3 Training
- SSL City Council

# Public Awareness

- Nights Out Against Crime
- Watershed Symposium
- Community Meetings
- IMC
- Fashion Place Mall
- University of Utah Law School
- Looping DVD

# Local Equipment Rental







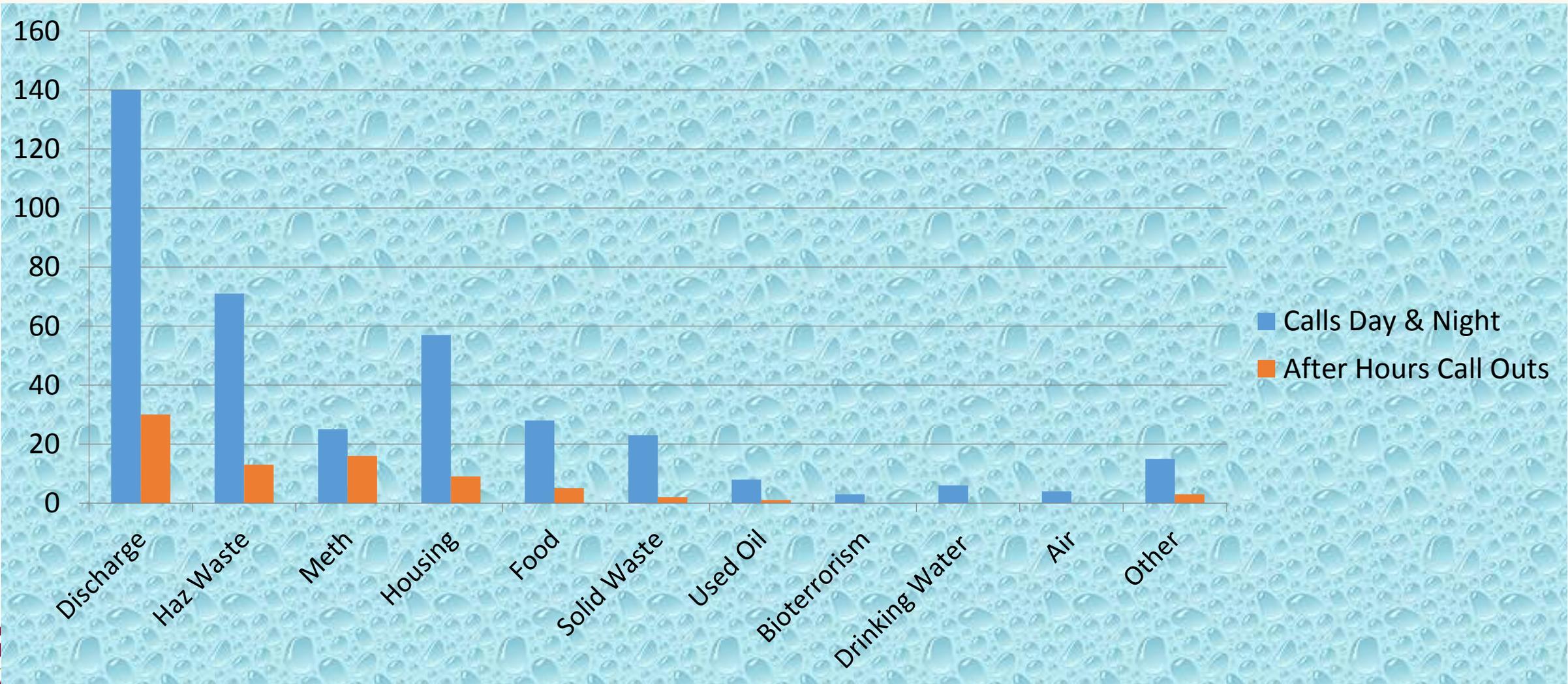




# Result

- Plea Agreement (Settle Administrative and Criminal Action)
  - Class A Misdemeanor
  - \$2,000 Plea in Abeyance Fee
  - Pay a Penalty \$4,402
  - Pay \$1,666 Assigned Fund
  - Prepare a Written Pollution Prevention Plan
  - Reimburse Murray City

# Increase Enforcement Referrals Emergency Response Calls 2014



	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
D.A. Assigned Cases	17	124	125	215	242	198
Environmental Felony Crimes	0	0	4	0	5	8
Environmental Class A Misdemeanor Crimes	0	0	0	5	3	5
Environmental Class B Misdemeanor Crimes	0	0	3	3	8	13
Pending Criminal Actions						2
Health Department Daytime Call-Outs	166	152	157	133	195	156
Health Department After Hours Call-Outs	67	76	68	68	91	76
Health Department After Hours Consults	150	139	117	117	155	137
Meth Closures	89	123	167	177	242	176
Health Department Notices of Violation	23	29	24	19	16	31
NOV Penalty	\$59,893	\$127,262	\$71,928	\$47,263	\$28,799	\$31,608.75
Penalty Held in Abeyance	\$8,833	\$39,076	\$18,660	\$3,166	3832.00	10,988
Trainings						

# Solve Problems With All Enforcement Tools

- Health Department
  - Regulations
  - State Rules (DEQ)
  - Ordinances
  - Responsibility to Public Health
  - Unincorporated or Incorporated
- Code Enforcement
  - Ordinance
  - Criminal Code—Maybe
  - City
- District Attorney
  - Criminal Code
  - Criminal Standard
- Storm Water
  - Ordinances
  - Portions of State Rule
  - UPDES, Manage System, SWPPP
  - City

# Same Location: 2 Businesses 2 Violations



# Storm Drain #1--Grease

**\$1,476.50**

**Pollution Prevention Plan**

**Train Employees**

**Criminal Investigation—No charges**



# Storm Drain #2—Soap and Cigarettes

**\$1,476.50**

**Pollution Prevention Plan**

**Train Employees**

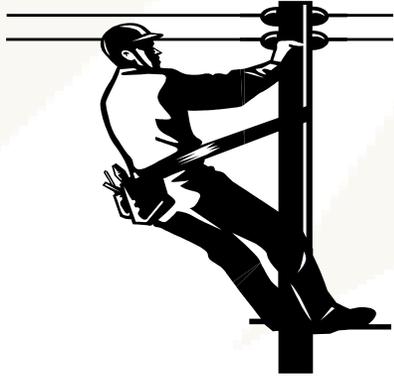
**Criminal Investigation—No charges**



# Future

- Environmental Crimes Settlement Fund
- Public Outreach
  - Night Out Against Crime
  - Businesses (IMC, Fashion Place Mall)
- Reinvest in Partners
- Learning from others
- Multi-County Task Force

# Who can help stop Environmental Crimes?





Questions???