



# **Fruitland Magnesium Fire**

## **Emergency Response and Time-critical Removal Action**

5/12/2017

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

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# Panda International Trading (PIT)



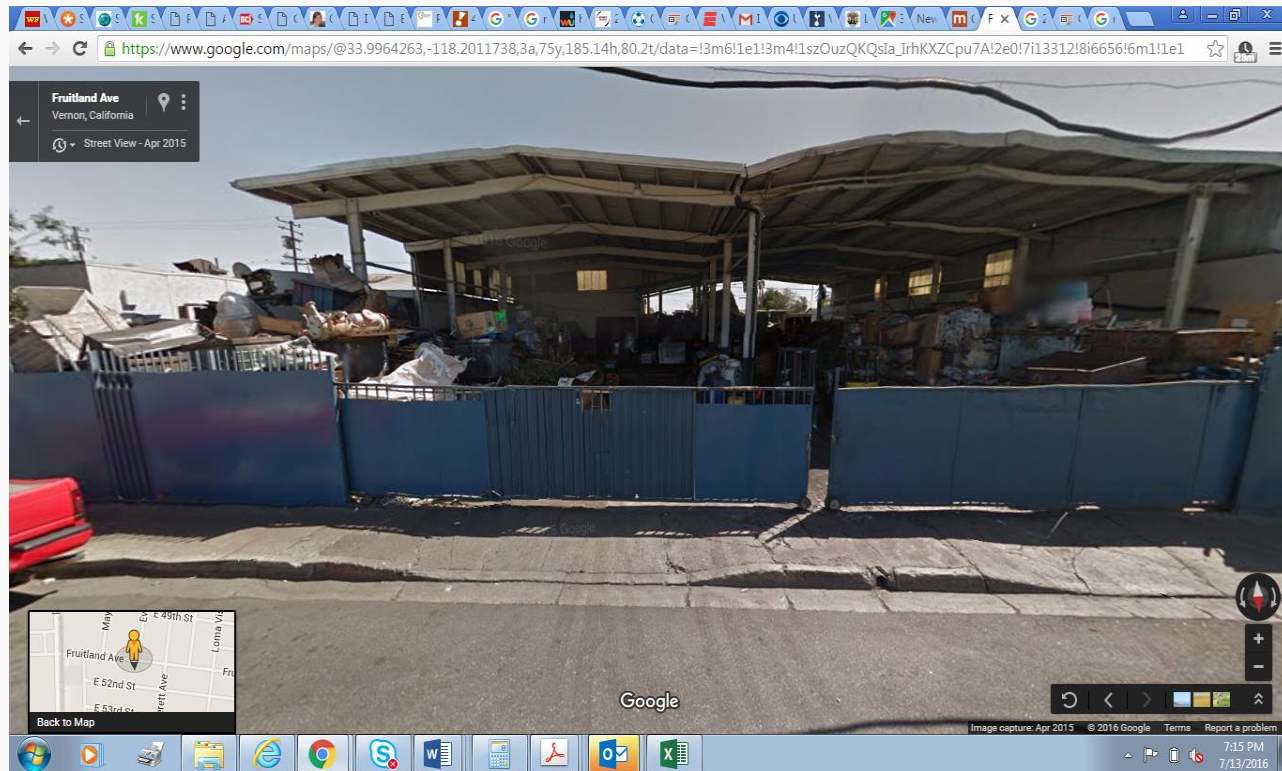


# PIT

- Scrap metal recycling facility
- Sorting and packaging for international shipment
- Began operations in 2003



# PIT





# Sokorp

- Sokorp: tenant business performing electronics recycling
  - printed circuit board recycling (Au, Ag, Pt, Cu, Sn/Pb).
  - likely also performed precious metals recovery from catalytic converters
- Began operations in January(?) 2016





# Sokorp





## Regulatory History: PIT

- 2006 CUPA NOV: HW disposal/storage, EPA ID number, U-waste reporting, business plan, CUPA permit.
- 2011 CUPA NOV: CUPA business permit, inventory, training records.
- 2013 CUPA NOV: Improper hazardous waste storage and disposal. These violations were related to dust containing metals disposed into a roll-off bin and scattered on the sidewalk in front of the facility.



## Regulatory History: PIT

- 11/2013: Los Angeles County filed criminal charges against business owner including two counts of violating Health & Safety Code 25189.5(D) (treatment and storage of hazardous waste at unauthorized facility) and two counts of violating Health & Safety Code 25189.5(B) (knowing disposal of hazardous waste at unauthorized facility) and one count of violating Penal Code 374.8(B) (knowing disposal of hazardous substance to street).
- 9/2016: Business owner pled guilty to 5 felony counts





## Regulatory History: Sokorp

- June 6, 2016: CUPA investigators issued an NOV issued for air release of acid mist originating from Sokorp operations at the site.
- The NOV included hazardous waste disposal violations for bags in the trash with residues of caustic soda, improper hazardous waste storage, and lack of a hazardous waste permit or EPA generator ID number.



## Regulatory History: Sokorp

- June 14, 2016 (day of fire): CUPA NOV notes that Sokorp had been using a mixture of nitric and hydrochloric acids to extract precious metals from e-waste circuit boards and neutralizing the resulting solution with caustic soda. Sokorp statements to CUPA investigators were the basis for the NOV statement that Sokorp's operations "resulted in release/fire."



# Fruitland Magnesium Fire 6/14/16





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# Fruitland Mg Fire Emergency Response

- Multiple agency response:
  - LA County Fire
  - LA County Fire Health Hazardous Materials Division (HHMD)
  - LA County Department of Public Health (DPH)
  - South Coast AQMD
  - DTSC ER
  - EPA ER



# Fruitland Mg Fire Emergency Response

- Issues:
  - Large quantity (~10K lbs.) of magnesium metal involved in fire presented challenges for fire fighters
  - >300 persons evacuated from adjacent residential neighborhood
  - Large volumes of smoke/ash produced impacting surrounding business and residents





# Fruitland Mg Fire Emergency Response

- Unified Command established:
  - EPA, HHMD, and DPH Incident Commanders
  - USCG Incident Management Assist Team
  - LA County logistics support
  - Assistance from cities of Maywood, Vernon



# Fruitland Mg Fire Emergency Response

- Response actions:
  - Public relations/community involvement
  - Shelter of evacuated residents
  - Facility stabilization
  - Clean-up of streets and cars
  - Clean-up of residential exteriors
  - Residential indoor air sampling
  - Residential indoor clean-up



## Fruitland Mg Fire: Time-critical Removal Action

- PRP: ability to pay defense
- EPA Fund-lead removal action
- Cal Recycle partnership
- Community/elected official outreach
- DPH coordination



## Fruitland Mg Fire: Time-critical Removal Action

- Removal operations: 10/17 to 12/23 2016
  - Debris curtain
  - Debris segregation
  - Dust control
  - Air monitoring/sampling
  - Roofing structure shoring



## Fruitland Mg Fire: Time-critical Removal Action

- Removal operations: 10/17 to 12/23 2016
  - Business inventory
  - Ground surface sampling
  - PCB contamination: epoxy seal
  - DTSC ER removal
- Removal operations: 02/14/17
  - Lead contamination: slurry seal



## Site Profile/Slideshow

<https://response.epa.gov/FruitlandMgFire>





# Questions?

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