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NEWS RELEASE



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Settlement Reached in Unlawful Propane Disposal at Oxnard Recycling Center

VENTURA, Calif. – An investigation by the Ventura County District Attorney's Office has determined that a hazardous propane release at the City of Oxnard Del Norte Regional Recycling and Transfer Station originated from an improperly disposed tank by ModVans Inc., a manufacturer of recreational vehicles.

The incident occurred on November 1, 2022, when an employee of ModVans disposed of a propane tank from a recreational vehicle into a rented commercial roll-off bin. The bin was later transported to the transfer station, where the tank was dumped onto the tipping floor, resulting in the release of a large amount of compressed flammable gas inside the facility.

Customers and employees were evacuated until the City of Oxnard Fire Department arrived and stopped the active release.

Investigators traced the roll-off bin back to the ModVans facility in Oxnard. Security camera footage confirmed that an employee placed the propane tank in the bin, mistakenly believing it was empty. The investigation further found that inadequate employee training on hazardous waste disposal contributed to the violation. Propane tanks, even if seemingly empty, pose serious fire and explosion risks and are prohibited from municipal waste streams.

"This incident serves as a reminder that improper disposal of hazardous materials can put workers, first responders, and the public at serious risk," District Attorney Erik Nasarenko said. "Proper training and adherence to hazardous waste regulations are critical to preventing dangerous situations like this."



Hazardous propane release from propane tank at Del Norte Regional Recycling and Transfer Station.

As a result of the investigation, ModVans reached a \$22,562 resolution with the District Attorney's Office. The company was also ordered to comply with environmental regulations and improve hazardous waste disposal training for employees.



Propane tank improperly disposed of by ModVans Inc.