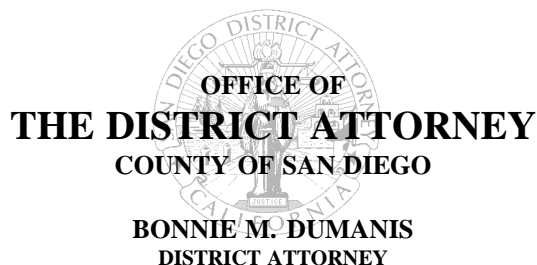


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State Prosecutors Sue Target Stores for Illegally Dumping Hazardous Waste

San Diego County District Attorney [Bonnie M. Dumanis](#) today announced that her office has joined with 19 other California District Attorneys, the state Attorney General and the Los Angeles City Attorney in a civil lawsuit against Target Corporation for routinely and systematically dumping hazardous wastes into the environment.

The lawsuit, filed in Alameda County today, claims that more than 200 Target stores throughout the state handled and disposed of various hazardous wastes and materials improperly over a eight-year period, including bleaches, pesticides, paint, aerosols, oven cleaners, and other flammable and corrosive materials. All 19 Target stores in San Diego County were involved in the hazardous waste violations.

“Target officials were warned years ago of the unlawful practice, but decided to illegally dump the hazardous waste anyway,” said DA Dumanis. “They had a conscious disregard for the protection of human health and the environment and now they must be held accountable.”

California law requires companies to carefully store, handle, and dispose of hazardous wastes and materials. Prosecutors contend that Target systematically ignored those laws to cut costs, alleging that employees identified defective, damaged, and leaking chemical products and threw them into company compactors. Instead of being sent to authorized disposal sites, tons of hazardous wastes and contaminated materials were crushed along with discarded merchandise and garbage in massive compactors, and sent to area landfills. Hazardous waste was also disposed of by passing on damaged and unusable items through donations to charities.

The investigation began in 2002 with the help of the San Diego County Department of Environmental Health, the California Department of Toxic Substances Control and numerous other environmental health agencies statewide.

The District Attorneys and the Attorney General are requesting that Target be required to manage its hazardous waste and hazardous materials lawfully and be liable for civil penalties that result from their violations.

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