

Westside Health Assessment

Conducted by the
Costa Mesa Fire Department

Background Information

At the request of City Council, the Fire Department conducted a Westside Health Assessment. The investigation included: Research of Cancer rates in Costa Mesa, Hazardous Material study, and Water Quality study.

Investigative Staff

- Gregg Steward, Deputy Chief
- Larry Grihalva, EMS Coordinator
- Michelle Rudaitis, Hazardous Materials Specialist

This report will consist of:

- Methodology
- Limitations of the study
- Findings

Methodology

Larry Grihalva reviewed national, state, and county cancer data from the following agencies:

- Center for Disease Control's National Cancer Institute
- American Cancer Society

Methodology (continued)

- National Association of American Central Cancer Registries
- California Department of Health Services Cancer Surveillance Section
- Orange County Health Care Agency

Methodology (continued)

Michelle Rudaitis contacted the following agencies to gather data they had compiled related to chemical exposure:

- Orange County Environmental Health (Proposition 65)
- Costa Mesa Hazardous Materials Disclosure Program
- Mesa Consolidated Water District, NPDES

Limitation of the Study

- It is impractical to compare cancer rates between regions of Costa Mesa or to compare the City of Costa Mesa with the rates of the County as a whole. (No single organization collects and retains this data by geographic locale.)
- Lack of data or incidents specific to the Westside
- Limited Fire Department experience with this type of investigation

Findings of the Study

- The investigation yielded two large volumes of technical data related to Health, Ground Water Contamination, and Hazardous Materials Standards.
- According to the Cancer Surveillance Program of Orange County, there is *no* evidence or indication that Costa Mesa has unusually high or unusually low cancer incidence rates.

Findings (continued)

- The investigative team was unable to discover any significant hazardous material incidents within the City of Costa Mesa.
- The water delivered to Mesa's customers meets and exceeds the stringent standard of the California Department of Health Services and United States Environmental Protection Agency.

Findings (continued)

- This extensive assessment did not yield any findings that would indicate the potential of unusual risk of cancer. Actually, Costa Mesa's cancer rates were consistent with County, State and National statistics.
- The members of the task force will continue to monitor the elements of this assessment as it relates to the entire city.
- Questions