

## ILLEGAL DUMPING OF TRANSITE ASBESTOS PIPES IN CEDARPINES PARK

**Gail Fry - Staff Writer**

On Saturday, September 26, *The Alpenhorn News* discovered an abandoned structure surrounded by a substantial dumpsite containing thousands of feet of transite pipe and other debris located on a remote property in Cedarpines Park overlooking Silverwood Lake.

By the following Tuesday, *The Alpenhorn News* reported and emailed photographs of the substantial dumpsite to San Bernardino County Fire Department Hazmat Division Hazard Material Specialist II Greg Ziegler and Deputy Fire Marshal Doug Snyder.

Snyder responded, "Basically looking at these pictures, I think the probability of the pipes having asbestos is 99 percent. This is transite pipe and is most likely asbestos."

Hazard Material Specialist II Greg Zeigler went out to inspect the property and took samples of the dilapidated water pipes. The samples were provided to EMS Laboratories on October 2, *The Alpenhorn News* was told that it would take one to two weeks to receive the test results.

EMS Laboratories conducted polarized light microscopy (PLM) testing of the samples on October 7 and found the samples to be of non-friable Chrysotile from three percent to twenty five percent and Crocidolite asbestos up to fifteen percent.

United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) website states, "If non-friable asbestos containing material has not crumbled, been pulverized or reduced to powder and will not become so during the course of demotion/renovation operations, it is considered non-friable and therefore is not subject to Asbestos National Emissions Standards Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP)."

The EPA states "Asbestos is made up of microscopic bundles of fibers that may become airborne when distributed. These fibers get into the air and may become inhaled into the lungs, where they may cause significant health problems."

Ziegler said when the asbestos has been found to be non-friable, the case is then referred to the San Bernardino County Code Enforcement Department.

Deputy Director of Code Enforcement Randy Rogers told *The Alpenhorn News* that the department "started the case on this property in July of 2007. We declared the property substandard and asked that the owner either repair or demolish the structure and as part of the cleanup do away with all of the violations."

According to a letter from Land Use Services Department dated July 13, 2007 obtained by *The Alpenhorn News*, the owner of 690 Mozumdar Drive in Cedarpines Park was informed that the property was substandard and had the following defects: a public nuisance, lack of

maintenance, unsightly, open and abandoned, vandalized, fire hazard, lack of heating, lack of weather protection, hot/cold running water, inadequate sewer or septic system, broken windows and doors, lack of gas or water, inadequate / unsafe structural members and floor sags.

Rogers said, “The owner has allowed all certified mail to be returned unclaimed. In looking at the property, the owner has obviously done nothing.” Rogers said, “If attempts to get the property owner to clean up is futile, an administrative abatement where an affidavit would be filed with the court declaring the property to be a health hazard and fire hazard.”

Rogers continued, “This is pretty high on our list. There are so many properties fighting for so much money. This would be a very expensive abatement.” Rogers said, “At this time, no funding has been set aside to pay for the administrative abatement for this property.”

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Photograph of the illegally dumped asbestos containing transite pipe located at 690 Mozumdar in Cedarpines Park.