

SMAQMD Annual Engine Survey Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs):

1. What is the Air Toxics "Hot Spots" Information and Assessment Act?

The Air Toxics "Hot Spots" Information and Assessment Act (AB 2588, 1987, Connelly) was enacted in 1987 and requires stationary sources to report the types and quantities of certain substances routinely released into the air. The goals of the Air Toxics "Hot Spots" Act are to collect emission data, to identify facilities having localized impacts, to ascertain health risks, to notify nearby residents of significant risks, and to reduce those significant risks to acceptable levels.

2. Why does my facility have to complete the annual engine survey?

Diesel exhaust is a toxic air contaminant. Due to the large number of facilities with diesel engines and the toxicity of diesel exhaust, special reporting procedures have been adopted under the State's Emission Inventory Criteria and Guidelines for The Air Toxics "Hot Spots" Program. The special diesel reporting procedures were developed in part to integrate the AB 2588 "Hot Spots" process for facilities with diesel engines with the Stationary Diesel Engine Air Toxic Control Measure (ATCM; section 93115, title 17, California Code of Regulations) to eliminate duplicative reporting requirements. The Sacramento Metro AQMD evaluates this data to make sure there are no localized health impacts from these engines.

3. Are Portable Diesel Engines included in this survey?

According to [CARB's Emission Inventory Criteria and Guidelines for the Air Toxics "Hot Spots" Program](#), portable diesel engines that pose "routine and predictable emissions" and are located at stationary sources are included in this survey.

4. What is a Residential Building?

A Residential Building would be a house, apartment, or any other dwelling (such as an elder care center or college student housing).

5. What is an Off-Site Commercial Building?

An Off-Site Commercial Building is a workplace building located outside of the facility boundary. The facility boundary is defined as the property line, and often the fence is on the property line. In the case of co-located businesses, the space occupied by another business is considered an off-site commercial building.

6. Can my facility fill out the same survey form for my engines located at different addresses/locations?

Yes, as long as the same facility/organization operates the engines.

7. What are Maintenance Hours?

From [CARB's Emission Inventory Criteria and Guidelines for the Air Toxics "Hot Spots" Program](#): Maintenance hours are the hours the emergency engine is operating to:

- a) evaluate the ability of the engine or its supported equipment to perform during an emergency. "Supported equipment" includes, but is not limited to, generators, pumps, transformers, switchgear, and breakers; or
- b) facilitate the training of personnel on emergency activities; or
- c) provide electric power for the facility when the utility distribution company takes its power distribution equipment offline to service that equipment for any reason that does not qualify as an emergency use; or
- d) provide additional hours of operation to perform testing on an engine that has experienced a breakdown or failure during maintenance.

8. What are Emergency Hours?

From [CARB's Emission Inventory Criteria and Guidelines for the Air Toxics "Hot Spots" Program](#): Emergency hours or "emergency use" means providing electrical power or mechanical work during any of the following events and subject to the following conditions:

- a) the failure or loss of all or part of normal electrical power service:
 - i. which is caused by any reason other than the enforcement of a contractual obligation the owner or operator has with a third party or any other party; and
 - ii. which is demonstrated by the owner or operator to the district air pollution control officer's satisfaction to have been beyond the reasonable control of the owner or operator;
- b) the failure of a facility's internal power distribution system which is demonstrated by the owner or operator to the district air pollution control officer's satisfaction to have been beyond the reasonable control of the owner or operator;
- c) the pumping of water or sewage to prevent or mitigate a flood or sewage overflow;
- d) the pumping of water for fire suppression or protection;
- e) the powering of ALSF-1 and ALSF-2 airport runway lights under category II or III weather conditions, as determined by the district;
- f) the pumping of water to maintain pressure in the water distribution system for the following reasons:
 - i. a pipe break that substantially reduces water pressure; or
 - ii. high demand on the water supply system due to high use of water for fire suppression; or
 - iii. the breakdown of electric-powered pumping equipment at sewage treatment facilities or water delivery facilities.
- g) the day-of-launch system checks and initial launch tracking performed (in parallel with grid power) by the United States Department of Defense at Command Destruct Sites (also known as "CT" sites, which is defined in section 93115, title 17, California Code of Regulations) that occur within the 24-hour time period associated with the scheduled time of the launch.

9. If the engine was not operated at all during the year, does the facility still have to complete an engine survey?

Yes, the facility still has to complete the engine survey by indicating "0" hours in each entry.