

Welcome to the CLU-IN Internet Seminar

CEC Training for OSCs...Access: Protecting EPA's Interests and Avoiding Personal Liability

Sponsored by: EPA Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation

Delivered: November 20, 2013, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM, EST (18:00-20:00 GMT)

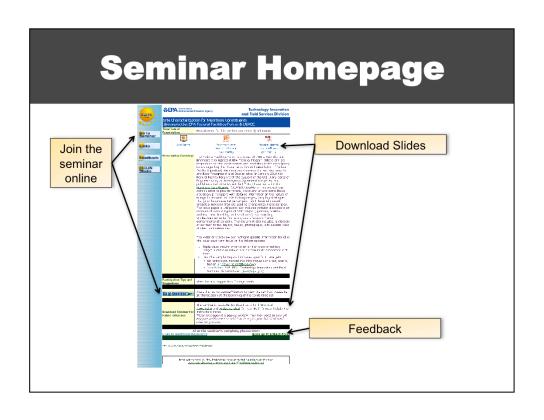
Instructors

Cliff Villa, EPA Region 10 (villa.clifford@epa.gov)

Moderators:

• Jean Balent, U.S. EPA Technology Innovation and Field Services Division (balent.jean@epa.gov)

Visit the Clean Up Information Network online at www.cluin.org



Housekeeping

- Entire broadcast offered live via Adobe Connect
 - participants can listen and watch as the presenters advance through materials live
 - Some materials may be available to download in advance, you are recommended to participate live via the online broadcast
- Audio is streamed online through by default
 - Use the speaker icon to control online playback
 - If on phones: all lines will be globally muted



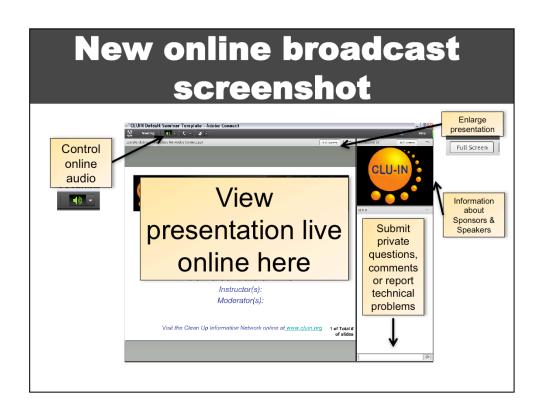
- Q&A use the Q&A pod to privately submit comments, questions and report technical problems
- This event is being recorded and shared via email shortly after live delivery
- Archives accessed for free http://cluin.org/live/archive/

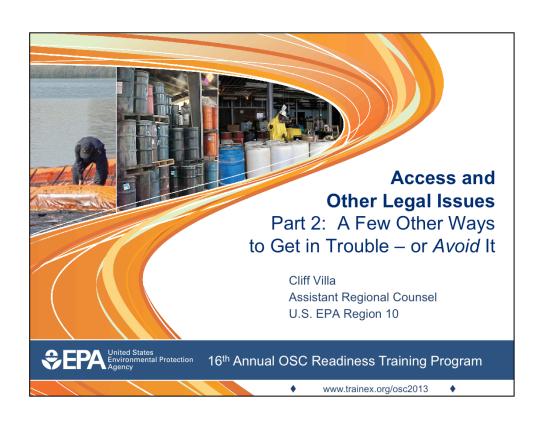
Although I'm sure that some of you have these rules memorized from previous CLU-IN events, let's run through them quickly for our new participants.

Please mute your phone lines during the seminar to minimize disruption and background noise. If you do not have a mute button, press *6 to mute #6 to unmute your lines at anytime. Also, please do NOT put this call on hold as this may bring delightful, but unwanted background music over the lines and interupt the seminar.

You should note that throughout the seminar, we will ask for your feedback. You do not need to wait for Q&A breaks to ask questions or provide comments. To submit comments/questions and report technical problems, please use the ? Icon at the top of your screen. You can move forward/backward in the slides by using the single arrow buttons (left moves back 1 slide, right moves advances 1 slide). The double arrowed buttons will take you to 1st and last slides respectively. You may also advance to any slide using the numbered links that appear on the left side of your screen. The button with a house icon will take you back to main seminar page which displays our agenda, speaker information, links to the slides and additional resources. Lastly, the button with a computer disc can be used to download and save today's presentation materials.

With that, please move to slide 3.





Bad News . . .

No matter what you do (or don't do) for the Government, you can be sued personally for it.



Good News!

No personal liability for damages arising from the responsible execution of your job – even if your decisions are wrong.



Bad News

You can still get sued.

OSBORN v. HALEY (2007): Barry Haley (USFS) sued in 2003 by Patricia Osborn (contract employee), alleging conspiracy to cause wrongful termination.



The Washington Post an independent newspaper

Suing Civil Servants

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X-20



The Westfall Act

28 U.S.C. § 2679(d)

- Limited immunity for employee acting within scope of employment.
- Upon certification that employee was acting within scope of employment, claim against employee should be dismissed.
- Suit may then proceed against Government, governed by FTCA.





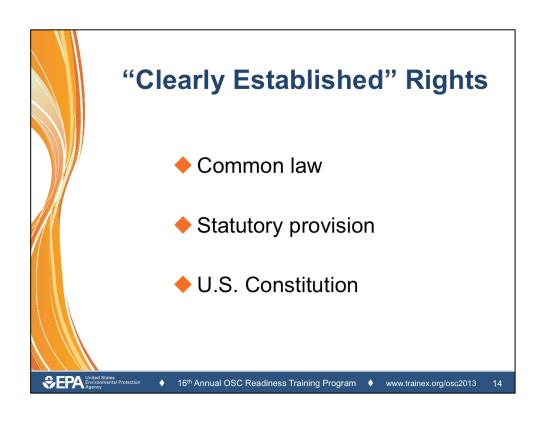
AG John Ashcroft sued personally by Lavoni Kidd, star football player for University of Idaho, arrested at Dulles Airport attempting to board plane to study in Saudi Arabia. Held for 15 days, shackled, strip-searched, then 13 months supervised detention. No charges ever filed.



Qualified Immunity

- No civil liability if:
 - 1. Your conduct was reasonable to carry out your duties, and
 - 2. Your conduct did not violate any "clearly established" rights.





Tort Claims

- Wrongful act or omission causing injury through negligence or intentional act.
- Examples:
- tortious interference with contract
- conversion
- trespass
- negligence

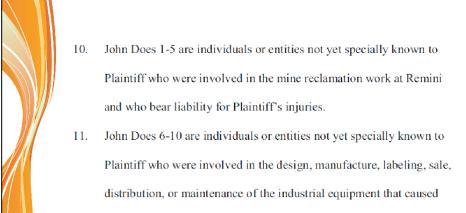
Tort Claims

"The OSC/RPM is responsible for addressing worker health and safety concerns at a response scene, in accordance with § 300.150."

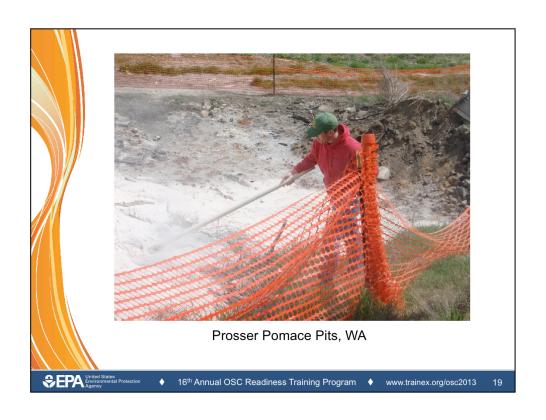
- NCP at 300.135(I)

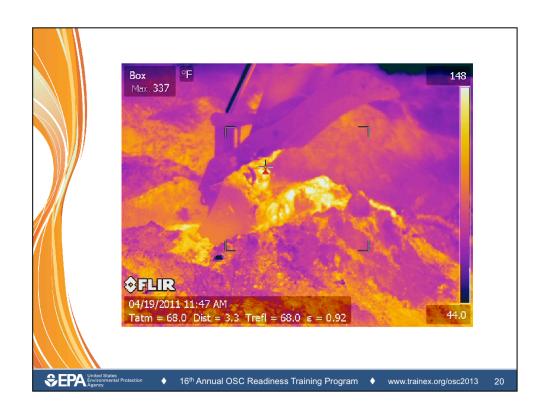
	IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF MONTANA HELENA DIVISION ******	
	JUDITH FICEK Plaintiff, v.	Cause No. CV-09-39-H-DWM
	UNITED STATES of AMERICA by and through the ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY; CAMP, DRESSER & MCKEE, INC.; CDM FEDERAL PROGRAMS CORPORATION; PORTEC CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT CO.; KOLBERG-PIONEER, INC.; JOHN DOES 1-5; and JOHN DOES 6-10, Defendants.	COMPLAINT
SEPA United	Status	Program ♦ www.trainex.org/osc2013 17

"John Doe" includes RPM (?) for Upper Ten Mile Creek Superfund Site in MT.

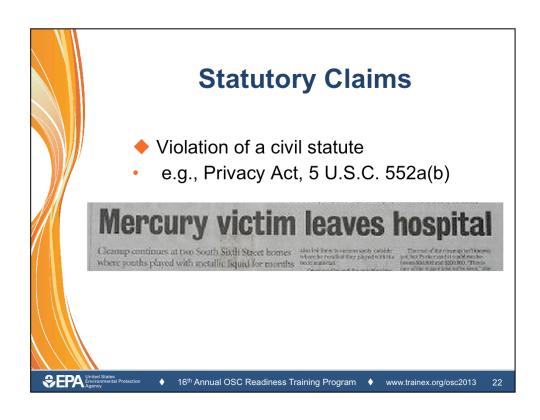


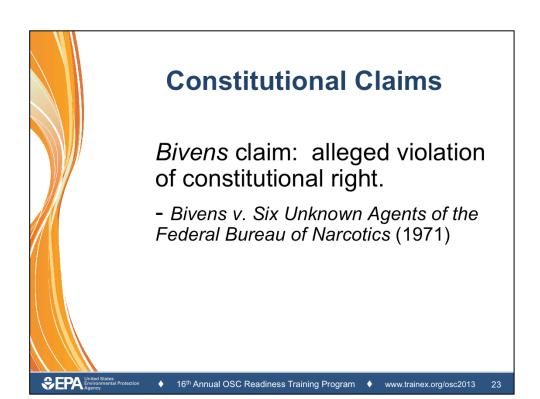
Plaintiff's injuries.













"The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated. . . ."



"The right of the people to be secure in their persons,

houses,

papers,

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against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated . . ."



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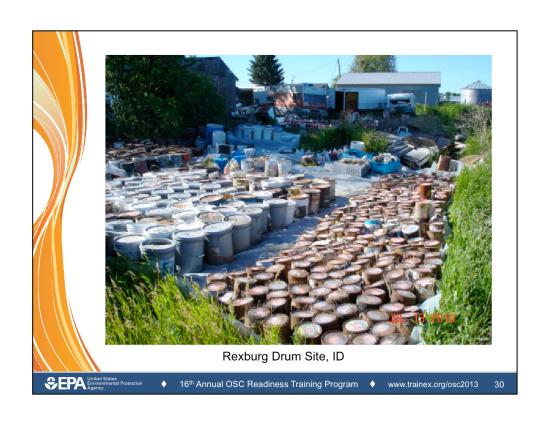
houses,

papers,

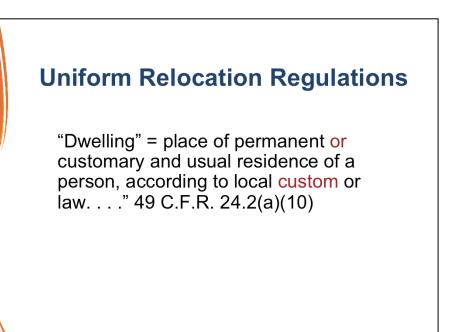
and effects,

against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated . . ."









Dow Chemical v. EPA (1986)

- Denied entry for inspection, EPA flew over and photographed 2000-acre industrial facility.
- Supreme Court: For "commercial property . . . expectation of privacy . . . differs significantly from the sanctity accorded an individual's home"
- However, "an electronic device to penetrate walls or windows so as to hear and record confidential discussions . . . would raise very different and far more serious questions."



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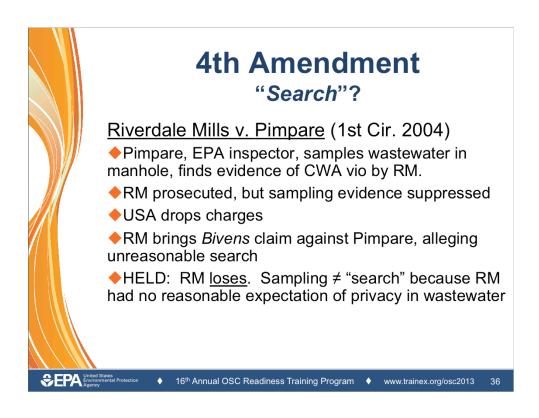


"The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable

searches and seizures,

shall not be violated . . ."





For frightening story (from EPA perspective), see 60 Minutes story from 2001, available on YouTube.



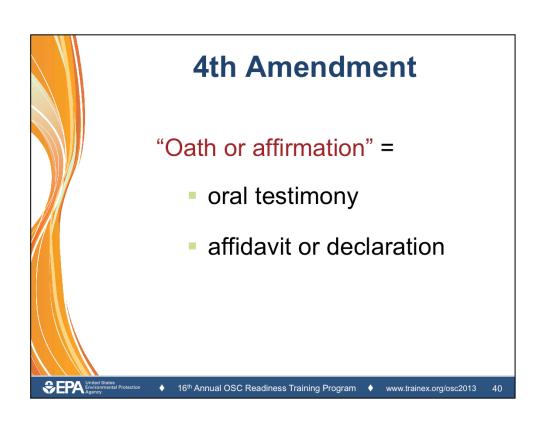
"... and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized."



"Probable cause" = difference between criminal warrant and administrative warrant

CERCLA 104(e)(1): "reasonable basis to believe there may be a release or threat of release of a haz substance or P/C."







26 North Center St., Rexburg, Idaho 83440 * 208-359-3010

Incident Narrative - Declaration of Observance & Findings

Incident Date: July 7, 2010 Incident Number: 10-5254

Incident Commander: Captain Robert Kohler

- I am the initial on-scene Incident Commander (hereinafter "IC) for the Madison Fire Department's response to 6545 South 2000 West, Rexburg, Idaho 83440. I am stationed at station #1 in Rexburg, Idaho. I have been employed with the department since April 2003. From April 2003 to October of 2005, I served as a Paid-on-call member of the department. From October 2005 to January 2010, I served as a full time Paramedic/Firefighter, responsible for responding to EMS and fire incidents. From January 2010 to June 2010, I was promoted to Step-up-Captain and acted as Incident commander on multiple incidents. Currently I am serving as Captain, responsible for Incident command, and coordinating response efforts from Madison Fire Department.
- The address we responded to is owned and occupied by Mr. Max Spatig--the site consists of approximately ¼ Acre lot with a single family residence, surrounded by various vehicles and one out building. The Madison County Sheriff's Office requested assistance from the Madison Fire Department in assessing multiple containers of paint related material. The containers had been



"Particularly describing . . . the place to be searched . . ." $\,$

the property located at 6545 S. 2000 West ("the Site") in Rexburg, Idaho. The Site property has a legal description of Township 5, Range 39, Section 25, Lot 51, and is identified in county records as Madison County Parcel RP05N39E254560A. The Site property is described to include a single-story, single-family dwelling blue in color with white trim. The Site property also includes an outbuilding, described as 8 x 12 feet, and a number of old vehicles in various states of disrepair.



"Particularly describing . . . things to be seized."

Approximately 3,000 individual containers are staged at the Site, pending disposal characterization, bulking, packaging for shipping and disposal. The containers are staged on plastic sheeting, but otherwise exposed to the elements. The professed owner of the material. Max Spatia, is under Madison County court order to not enter the



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF IDAHO

IN THE MATTER OF:

Case No.

PROPERTY LOCATED AT 6545 S. 2000 West REXBURG, ID 83440 MADISON COUNTY, IDAHO, T 5, R 39, S25, LOT 51 ADMINISTRATIVE WARRANT FOR ENTRY, SAMPLING, AND INSPECTION PURSUANT TO 42 U.S.C. § 9604

MICHAEL S. SPATIG, MAX SPATIG, AND ANY OFFICER, EMPLOYEE, OR DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY OR OTHER DESIGNATED GOVERNMENT OFFICER, AND TO ANY UNITED STATES MARSHAL:

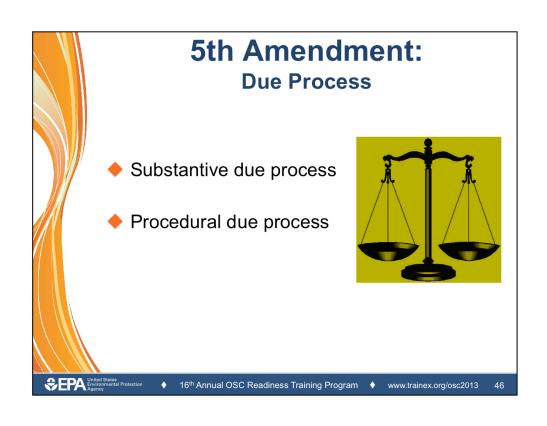
An Ex Parte Application for an Administrative Warrant for Entry pursuant to Section 104 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 9604, Memorandum of Law in Support of Ex Parte Application for Administrative Warrant, and declarations in support thereof, have been filed with this Court, Together, these



5th Amendment: Due Process

"No person . . . shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law."





Benzman v. Whitman (2d Cir. 2008): class action following 9/11 by residents and workers of Lower Manhattan.

Claim: false statements by EPA Administrator deprived plaintiffs of truth about WTC dust and opportunity take health precautions.



District Court: Plaintiffs' claim stated a violation of clearly established "substantive due process right to be free from official gov't policies that increase the risk of bodily harm[.]"



Circuit Court: Substantive due process claim requires conduct that "shocks the conscience"

- special relationship, or
- state-created danger

Circuit Court: "Special relationship" between government actor (Whitman) and victim?





Circuit Court: State-created danger?

Although the complaint contains numerous allegations that various employees within EPA were aware of data indicating health risks, there is no allegation that Whitman, from whom damages are sought in her personal capacity, was herself aware of such information.



5th Amendment: **Procedural Due Process**

Each order to compel access shall contain -

... a provision advising the person who failed to consent that an officer or employee of the agency that issued the order will be available to confer with respondent prior to the effective date of the order....

-- NCP at 40 CFR 300.400(d)(4)(iv)(C)

5th Amendment: Takings

". . . nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation."

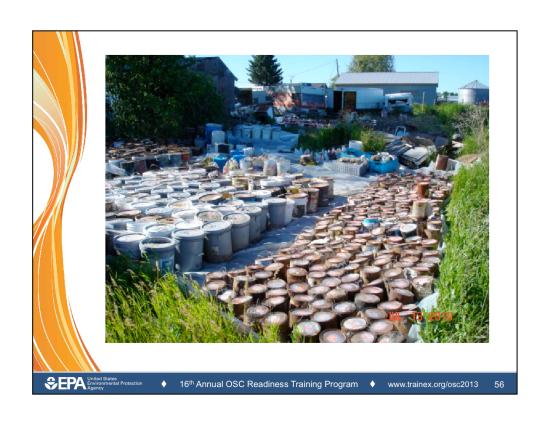


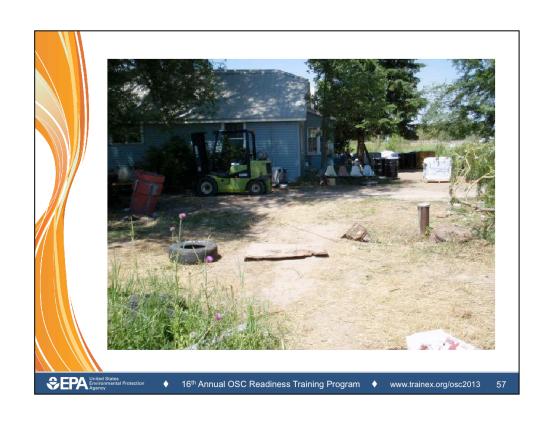


Physical Takings

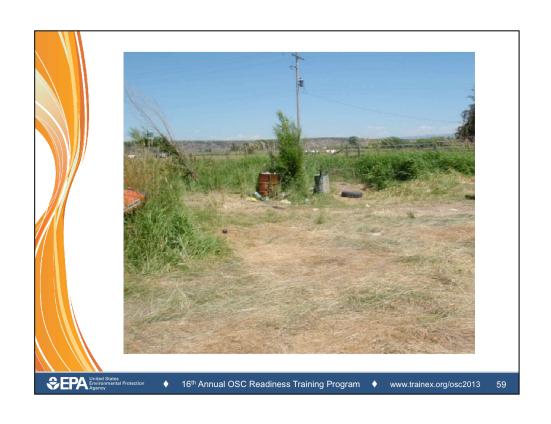
- 30-foot cable across rooftop
 - Loretto (1982)
- Monitoring well
 - Hendler v. U.S. (Fed. Cir. 1991)
- Landfill methane
 - Charles George Trucking (Mass. 1988)
- Disposal of asbestos waste back into mine
 - U.S. v. W.R. Grace (Mont. 2001)



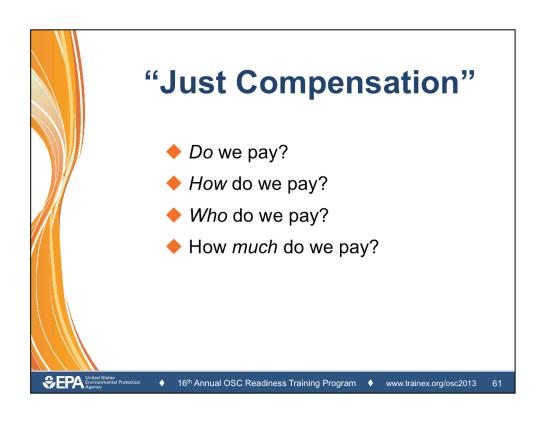








Takings? Depressing PRP's stock price? Harming PRP's brand value? Increasing PRP's cost of financing? D.C. Circuit: "insufficient" to merit constitutional protection. GE v. EPA (2010) Takings? Www.trainex.org/osc2013 60



Just Compensation: How?

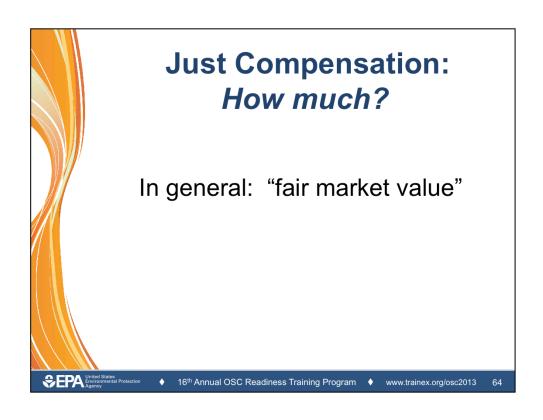
CERCLA grants EPA authority and discretion to use Superfund monies for 'payment of ... compensation for property loss ... incurred as a result of carrying out the NCP '

- EPA Policy (OSWER 9225.4-01), Sept. 1995



Just Compensation: Who? EPA Policy (Sept. 1995)

- PRPs are generally not eligible for compensation.
- ♦ No coverage for losses due to contractor negligence.

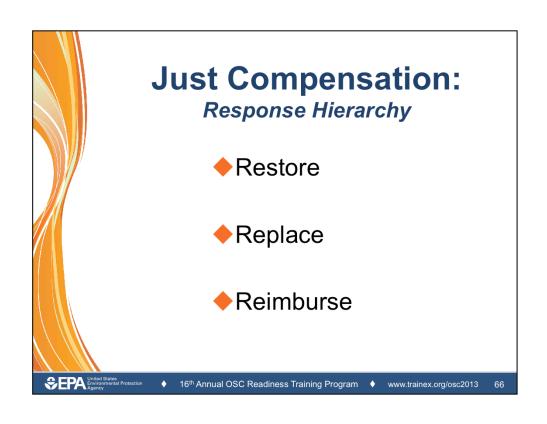


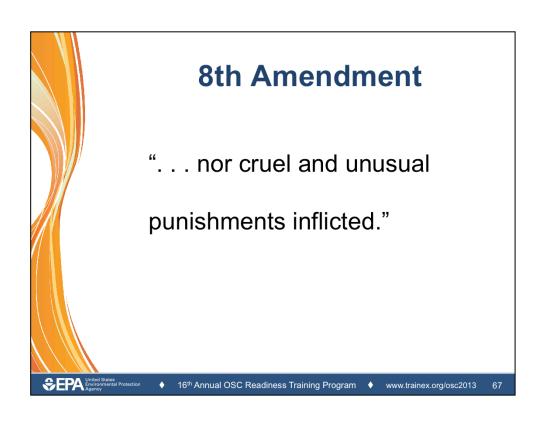
Just Compensation: How much?

In most situations, EPA should provide replacement value for essential furniture items (see Attachment 8 for a list of essential furniture items) and depreciated value for non-essential personal property.

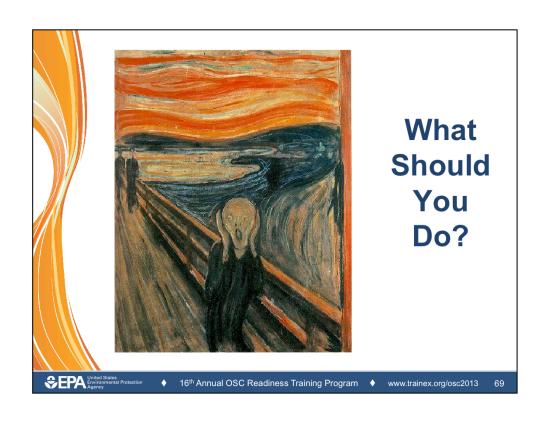
Temporary Relocations Implementation Guidance, OSWER Dir. 9230.0-97 (2002)







- ◆ 4/11/2011 08:52 PM
- ♦ "Mr _____ I will be happy to give up all my civil and especially my 8th ammendment [sic] rights via your property rights waiver. Kindly bring it by tomorrow preferably around 4pm."





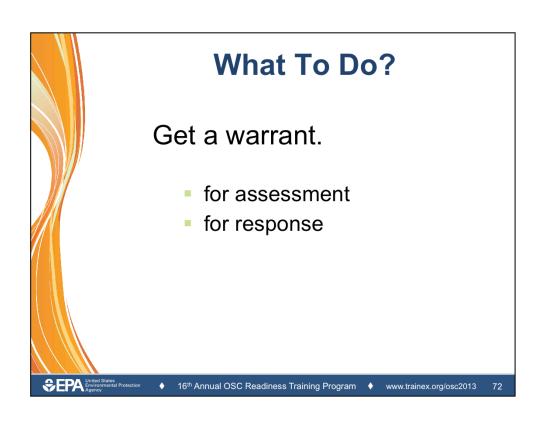
Remember: you don't have to be right, just reasonable.

What To Do?

Get legal advice.

Call us anytime. Discuss options for obtaining access, or any legal question.





UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

DISTRICT OF OREGON

PORTLAND DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF:

Case No.

'11-MC-9100

PROPERTY LOCATED AT 909 WASHINGTON STREET OREGON CITY CLACKAMAS COUNTY OREGON

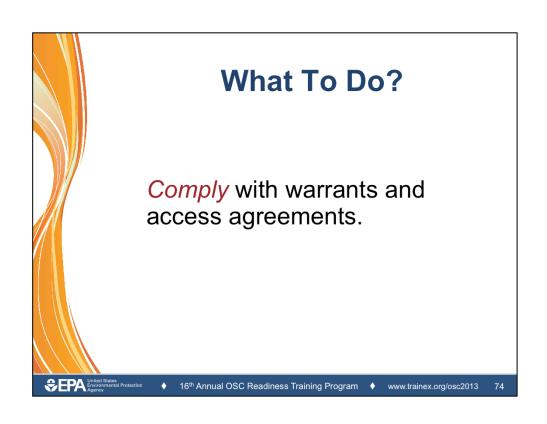
ADMINISTRATIVE WARRANT FOR ENTRY, SAMPLING, AND INSPECTION PURSUANT TO 42 U.S.C. 9604

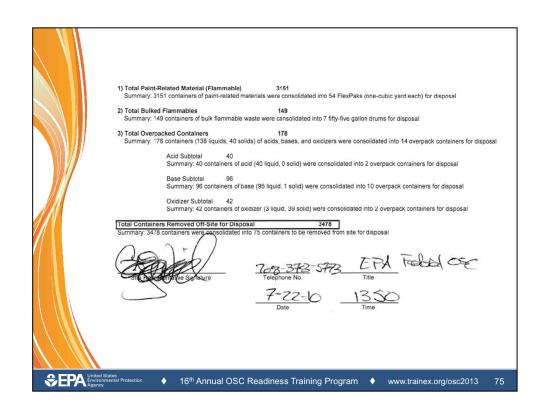
TO: NANCY ROBERTS AND ANY OFFICER, EMPLOYEE, OR DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY OR OTHER DESIGNATED GOVERNMENT OFFICER, AND TO ANY UNITED STATES MARSHAL:

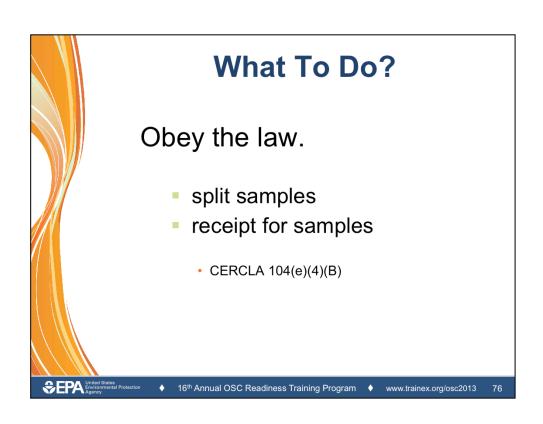
An Ex Parte Application for an Administrative Warrant for Entry pursuant to Section 104

of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, as amended,

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What To Do?

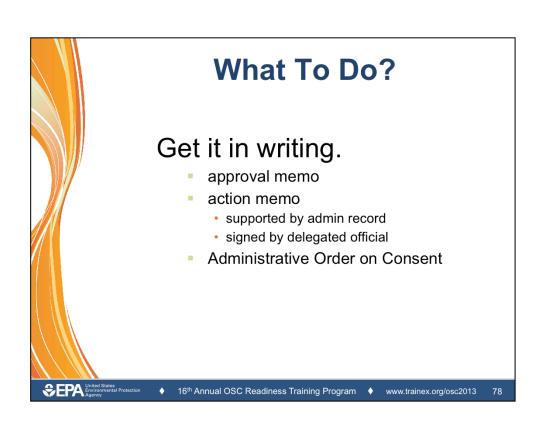
Obey the law.

"Unless (A) ["emergency"] \dots or (B) [site is on the NPL] or (C) continued response action is otherwise appropriate and consistent with remedial action to be taken obligations from the Fund ... shall not continue after \$2,000,000 has been obligated for response actions or 12 months has elapsed...."

CERCLA 104(c)(1) (emphasis added)



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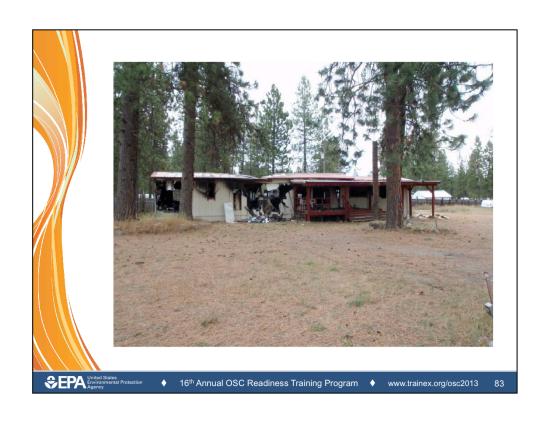


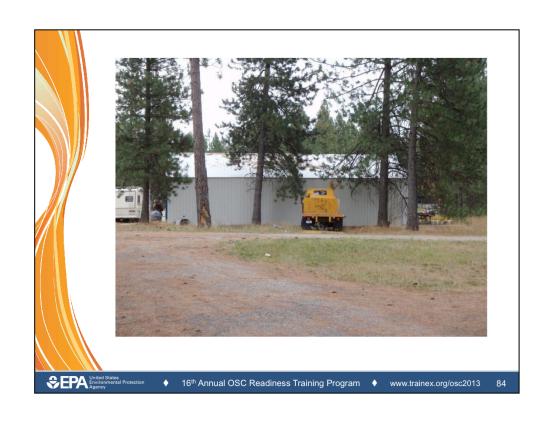


















Contact ORC for any threat of lawsuit or actual complaint. If mere threat of lawsuit, no response may be needed because most often, threats are not followed by actual filing of civil complaint. But please contact ORC to provide notice of any threat and discuss options for response.

If complaint actually filed, remember the Westfall Act! ORC drafts proposed certification that employee acts were within "scope of employment."

If any complaint or threat of lawsuit also accompanied by physical threat, contact ORC immediately, as this may constitute a federal crime subject to investigation.

What To Do If Threatened with Suit?

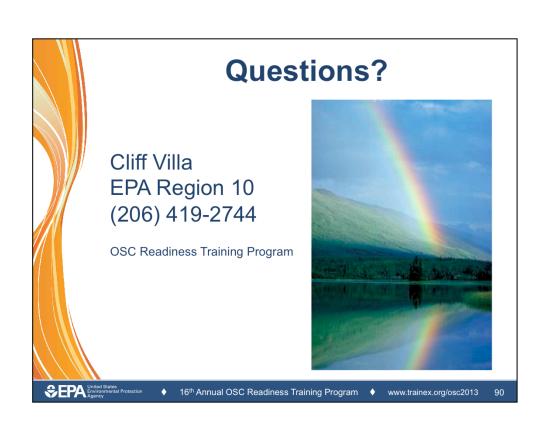
Two-part test for DOJ representation:

- 1. Scope of employment
- 2. Interest of the United States

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EPA policy (2008) authorizes subsidy of 50% of premiums for PLI, up to \$160/ year, for (1) "law enforcement officers"; (2) "supervisors"; and (3) "management officials." So far, despite petitions, OGC and HR have denied subsidies for OSCs, civil inspectors, and other EPA staff.



Certificates

- If you are interested in receiving a certificate for participating in this training, please send an email to Austin Oelschlager, Tetra Tech, at austin.oelschlager@tetratech.com
- An electronic certificate will be emailed to you within 30 days

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Resources & Feedback

- To view a complete list of resources for this seminar, please visit the <u>Additional Resources</u>
- Please complete the <u>Feedback Form</u> to help ensure events like this are offered in the future



Need confirmation of your participation today?

Fill out the feedback form and check box for confirmation email.