

NEWS RELEASE



OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

San Diego, California

***United States Attorney
Karen P. Hewitt***

For Further Information, Contact: Assistant U.S. Attorney Melanie K. Pierson (619) 557-5685

For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - May 21, 2009

United States Attorney Karen P. Hewitt announced that Al Prince Corporation was sentenced today in federal court in San Diego by United States District Court Judge Dana M. Sabraw to pay a \$100,000 fine, following its plea of guilty to charges related the illegal removal and disposal of asbestos from a building in Hillcrest. Judge Sabraw also ordered the company to pay \$910 to the San Diego County Air Pollution Control District and \$1,437 to the San Diego County Department of Environmental Health Services for their costs involved in sampling and analysis during the investigation of the case. Judge Sabraw further ordered the company to provide asbestos awareness training for its employees.

According to court documents, Al Prince Corporation managed a building in Hillcrest that housed a kidney dialysis clinic. In September 2006, one of the maintenance workers from the clinic took a sample of the spray-on acoustic ceiling in the parking garage, and laboratory analysis proved positive for the presence of asbestos. Representatives of the dialysis clinic faxed a copy of the report of analysis of the sample to Al Prince Corporation.

On March 14, 2007, a representative of Al Prince Corporation met with the maintenance worker of the dialysis clinic to review the repairs needed, including repairs on the ceiling in the garage. The maintenance worker reminded the Al Prince Corporation representative of the fact that the prior sample had tested positive for asbestos. On March 24, 2007, Al Prince Corporation hired two day laborers to remove the ceiling in the garage. When the dialysis clinic workers returned to work after the weekend, the garage floor was covered with white asbestos dust thick enough to show tire tracks and footprints.

In pleading guilty, the Corporation admitted that the removal occurred without adequate wetting of the asbestos material, and the material was not fully contained in leak-proof containers. The asbestos-containing debris was taken to the residence of the owner of Al Prince Corporation in Ramona for disposal, which is not an approved site for the disposal of asbestos-containing material. The San Diego County Air Pollution Control Board issued a Notice of Violation to the company for the illegal removal of asbestos. The San Diego County Department of Environmental Health Services responded to the disposal site in Ramona and issued a Notice of Violation to the company for illegal disposal of asbestos material.

DEFENDANT

Criminal Case No. 09-CR-1811-DMS

Al Prince Corporation

SUMMARY OF CHARGE

Violation of Asbestos Work Practice Standards, in violation of Title 42, United States Code, Sections 7412 and 7413(c)(1)

AGENCIES

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Criminal Investigations Division
Federal Bureau of Investigation
San Diego County Air Pollution Control District
San Diego County Department of Environmental Health