



2.2 SITE DISCOVERY

The HEER Office becomes aware of a site where a hazardous substance release has or may have occurred through the process of site discovery. Sites may be discovered through a number of means, such as:

- Calls from county or state agencies regarding emergencies
- Notification required for a release of a hazardous substance that meets or exceeds a “reportable quantity” as specified under the Hawai`i SCP (see Section 2.3.1.1, Release Notification, below)
- Investigations by other government agencies, universities, private and non-profit organizations
- State-led site discovery efforts
- Reports of contaminants in environmental assessments conducted by consultants for private or public parties (e.g. Phase I or Phase II Environmental Site Assessments)
- Sites where owners/operators are participating in voluntary investigation and/or cleanup programs such as Fast Track Cleanups (see Section 15) or the Voluntary Response Program (see Section 20)
- Public observations or complaints

Once the HEER Office is aware of a hazardous substance release or potential release site, all situations determined to be emergency responses are acted upon immediately or as appropriate by the Emergency Preparedness and Response Section (EP&R) staff of the HEER Office. These are typically “recent” hazardous substance releases or recent discoveries of abandoned containers that may present a significant threat of release. Hazardous substance releases or suspected releases judged not to require emergency response are assigned to the Site Discovery, Assessment, and Remediation Section (SDAR) of the HEER Office for evaluation and action. These non-emergency releases are typically “historic” hazardous substance releases, or releases where an initial emergency response action has been completed.