Reedley Lab Update

Joe Prado, Assistant Director

August 8, 2023
2018 - 2022 Universal MediTech Site
Date: 10/31/2022
Photos Taken By City of Fresno
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City of Fresno Chronology of Events

- **August 14, 2018** - Universal MediTech lab located at the Fresno’s North Pointe Industrial Business Park.
- **August 26, 2020** - Universal MediTech location experienced a small fire.
- **August 31, 2020** - Environmental Health CUPA inspection performed at Universal Meditech at 1320 E. Fortune Ave #102 in Fresno.
  - EH Inspector conducted onsite visit and noted violations: failing to prepare and implement a hazardous materials business plan (HMBP) for storage of hazmat (ethanol) over state thresholds
  - Permit was completed and valid from 9-1-2020 through 8-31-2021. Inspections are every 3 years from initial inspection, unless complaint is received.
City of Fresno Chronology of Events

- **October 31, 2022** - FCDPH staff received a complaint from City of Fresno Code Enforcement and City Fire Department regarding chemicals stored at the Universal MediTech facility in Fresno.

- **November 1, 2022** - FCDPH staff visited Universal MediTech site at 1320 E. Fortune Ave #102 in Fresno. Were not able to access facility.

- **November 3, 2022** - FCDPH staff met City of Fresno Code Enforcement officer and property management at facility.
City of Fresno Chronology of Events

- **November 8, 2022** - No response from general manager. FCDPH staff again visited Universal MediTech site but were again not able to access facility.

- **November 8, 2022** - FCDPH staff received an email after visiting facility from Xiao Xiao Wang, President/CEO of Universal MediTech Inc. regarding status of facility.

- **November 10, 2022** - Email response to Xiao Xiao Wang regarding the hazardous materials storage and transportation requirements.

- **November 23, 2022** - No response back from operators or CEO/President. FCDPH staff visited Universal MediTech facility and were again not able to access facility.

- **November 29, 2022** - Phone call with property management regarding status of business.
Reedley Site - 850 I Street Reedley, CA 93654
Reedley Site
Reedley Site
Reedley Site
Reedley Chronology
December 2022 through January 2023

December 19, 2022 - City of Reedley Code Enforcement Officer contacted FCDPH regarding business found operating at 850 I Street.

- December 20, 2022 - Reedley Code Enforcement citing multiple code, building, and zoning violations for business, and had concerns regarding possible hazardous materials stored at facility.
  - Emails with the Reedley Code Enforcement, CDPH, and FDA to coordinate a response.
  - Reedley Code Enforcement and FCDPH contacted FBI regarding potential public safety risks.

- December 20, 2022 - FCDPH contacted FDA and CDPH requesting assistance regarding suspicious medical test manufacturing company.

- December 21, 2022 - FBI coordinated meeting with State, Federal and Local agencies and instructed the agencies to standby until conclusion of their investigation.

- January 2023 through February 2023 - Ongoing regular communication with Federal and State agencies.
Reedley Chronology
February 2023

- **February 9, 2023** - FCDPH is informed by DTSC that FBI has given State and Local agencies approval to resume civil investigation.

- **February 9, 2023** - Universal MediTech issues a nationwide recall of its COVID-19 test kits.

- **February 24, 2023** - Multi-agency meeting to coordinate investigation of Prestige Biotech.
  - CDPH Food & Drug Branch to take lead on investigation of medical devices.
Reedley Chronology
March 2023

- **March 3, 2023** - FCDPH staff met at City of Reedley Fire Department with CDPH, DTSC, City of Reedley Police, Fire, Code Enforcement, and Building Inspector.
  - Conducted walk thru of facility.
  - No reportable amount of hazardous materials observed in accessible areas.
  - City of Reedley posted Unsafe to Occupy Notice on front door of building.
  - The site is contained and there is **no imminent risk to the public**.

- **March 6, 2023** - Received email that City of Reedley was granted access to facility by Prestige Biotech.
  - City of Reedley to obtain inspection by March 10th and include all agencies involved on inspection warrant.
Reedley Chronology
March 2023 CONT.

- March 16, 2023 - FCDPH staff met with CDPH, DTSC, and City of Reedley and briefed on inspection warrant.
  - Met with Consultant for Prestige Biotech.

  - CDPH Food & Drug Branch staff went through and embargoed the unapproved medical test kits and medical supplies.

  - DTSC did not take any samples. They did not see hazardous waste generated.

  - The site is contained and there is no imminent risk to the public.
Reedley Chronology
End of March through April 2023

- **March 22, 2023** - FCDPH meets with Health Officer, CAO, and BOS member on the Reedley Lab situation.
  - State and Federal authorities stated that abatement is the County’s responsibility
  - FCDPH emailed Prestige President requesting complete inventory of all materials onsite that pose a public safety risk.
  - Communication and requests for inventory continued through April with incomplete and delayed responses from business representative.

- **March 24, 2023** - FCDPH and City of Reedley coordinate with State Veterinarian contractor to provide water and distribute remaining food to lab mice.

- **April 21, 2023** - 1<sup>st</sup> Health Officer Order Issued

- **April 26, 2023** - FCDPH contacted Sheriff’s to assess any potential explosion hazard associated with some chemicals found onsite.
Reedley Chronology
May through July 2023

- **May 2-4, 2023** - Multi-agency onsite investigation conducted under Health Officer Order.
  - FCDPH, CDC, CDPH, FDA, and City of Reedley.

- **May 31, 2023** - 2nd Health Officer Order Issued Publicly - Closure and Abatement Order.

- **June 9, 2023** - 3rd Health Officer Order Amended to Extend Due Date.
  - Extension was granted to June 11, 2023.

- **June 15, 2023** - Filed with Superior Court an Abatement Warrant to destroy all biologicals.

- **June 23, 2023** - Judge of the Superior Court signs Abatement Warrant.

- **June 26, 2023** - Abatement warrant issued by Superior Court.

- **July 5-7, 2023** - Biological materials in approximately 36 refrigerators/freezers were properly removed and transported for destruction by licensed contractor.
Reedley Site **No Imminent Threat to Public Safety** - Assessment Measures

- Onsite air testing was clear
- Water and wastewater testing found no issues
- Electrical power was maintained to refrigerators and freezers
- Syndromic Surveillance from all Fresno County emergency rooms did not show any anomalies
- COVID-19 Wastewater and Clinical Surveillance demonstrated normal variants circulating in the community
Proposed Site – 3900 N. Blatella Lane, Fresno, CA 93727
Next Steps

- We are aware of the ongoing investigation with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, California Department of Public Health, Food and Drug Branch, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
- Federal Bureau of Investigation is providing consultation as needed.
- The FCDPH cannot comment on criminal investigations by the federal, state, or local enforcement agencies.
- The FCDPH is supporting the City of Reedley to remove chemicals, equipment, and medical devices on site through their own City Abatement warrant.
- FCDPH has offered assistance and will continue to collaborate with City of Fresno on any issues with the proposed site.
- Opportunity for federal and state regulations to be evaluated on the regulation and oversight of privately funded research and development laboratories.
Questions?

Department of Public Health
www.fcdph.org