



## Sunnyvale SMaRT Station® Gas Cylinder Fact Sheet

### What is the Sunnyvale SMaRT Station?

The [Sunnyvale Materials Recovery and Transfer \(SMaRT\) Station](#) serves the cities of Mountain View, Palo Alto and Sunnyvale, and is where the trash from these cities is processed before being landfilled.

### Disposal Cost Data:

According to the City of Sunnyvale during 2010 – 2013 more than 16,000 cylinders were processed through the SMaRT Station at a **cost of over \$144,000** to the cities for their proper disposal.

Aside from the exorbitant cost to dispose of them, cylinders can also explode and start fires. A baler explosion and subsequent fire occurred at the SMaRT Station® on March 17, 2015. Fortunately, there were no injuries or damage to the building or its equipment. However, about 30 tons of baled cardboard was lost, valued at \$3,000. The incident started as the baler that prepares curbside recyclables for shipment was compressing a bale of tin cans. Preliminary indications are that a **small propane gas cylinder** or flammable aerosol can inappropriately placed in a recycling container reached the baler chamber and exploded, and sparks from the explosion reached bales of cardboard nearby. This started a smoky fire that was doused with water and extinguished by the Department of Public Safety. Deliveries of garbage, recyclables and yard trimmings from the haulers serving the SMaRT cities were halted for three hours until the bales were removed and smoke was cleared from the building. During this closure, trucks waiting to dump their loads backed up on to the road leading in to the Station, costing the cities time, money and inconvenience.



Pictured - burned bale of cardboard

### Working on Solutions and Educating the Public:

- The City of Sunnyvale is the lead agency in partnership with Mountain View and Palo Alto in a [regional grant funded by the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery \(CalRecycle\)](#) through the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Grant Program for FY 2014/15. The goal of the grant is to increase the use of refillable one pound propane gas cylinders by the public in order to reduce the disposal of single-use one pound cylinders in the trash or recycling.
- As part of the grant, the [ReFuel Your Fun](#) campaign was developed by California Product Stewardship Council which includes a logo and slogan (*ReFuel Your Fun*), outreach materials, and media campaigns. The City of Sunnyvale Environmental Services Department is also conducting outreach and recently highlighted refillable propane cylinders in its reNews newsletter which is inserted in the City's Quarterly Report.

[ReFuelYourFun.org](http://ReFuelYourFun.org)



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