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Solid Waste District Press Release

Special Announcement Regarding the COVID-19 Pandemic

Moab Community Recycle Center Closed to the Public as a Preventative Measure Until Further Notice

Moab, March 15, 2020: The U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) identifies certain industries, including workers involved in solid waste services, for which exposure risks to the novel coronavirus COVID-19 may be elevated. At this time, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is still learning how the disease spreads. Although the virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person, the CDC states that “it may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads.”

A new, unpublished scientific study on COVID-19 indicates that the virus can remain stable on hard surfaces such as plastic and stainless steel for up to 72 hours and on cardboard for up to 24 hours. Based on this information, the Moab Community Recycle Center (CRC) and the Solid Waste District’s Administrative Office located at 1000 Sand Flats Road are closed to the public as a preventative measure until further notice.

Members of the public who utilize the CRC for recycling are encouraged to stockpile their recyclables at home until the CRC reopens. Commercial customers will continue to be permitted to deliver cardboard to the CRC. However, cardboard will be stockpiled for a minimum of three (3) days prior to processing as a preventative measure to mitigate potential exposures to our staff.

At this time, the Moab Landfill remains open to both residential and commercial customers and the Klondike Landfill remains open to franchised haulers. Please visit our website at www.swssd1.org for our hours of operations, facility locations, and contact information.

Solid Waste Special Service District #1 is preparing a separate press release that will provide recommended safeguards and preventative measures to mitigate potential exposures to COVID-19 and other infectious disease to the waste, recycling, and sanitation workers that provide critical services in our community. In the meantime, if you are sick or have been potentially exposed to COVID-19, please double bag your waste prior to placing it in your household receptacle for waste collection and disposal.

Additional information can be obtained online at the following locations:

<https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/transmission.html>

<https://coronavirus.utah.gov/>

<https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2020/03/14/811609026/the-new-coronavirus-can-live-on-surfaces-for-2-3-days-heres-how-to-clean-them>

<https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.03.09.20033217v2>

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