



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 28, 2011

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WHITTIER SMOG CHECK STATION'S LICENSE SUSPENDED

Bureau of Automotive Repair alleges "clean piping" by Uptown Smog Test Only

WHITTIER – The Bureau of Automotive Repair (BAR) today suspended the licenses of a Whittier Smog Check station owner and the station's Smog Check technician after being accused of "clean piping."

An Administrative Law judge granted BAR's request to immediately suspend the Automotive Repair Dealer registration and Smog Check Test Only Station license of Uptown Smog Test Only, 7718 Greenleaf Ave., Whittier, CA, and the Advanced Emission Specialist Technician License of Moises Zepeda.

"The bottom line is clean piping and clean plugging are against the law," said DCA Director Brian Stiger. "Dirty air is a problem for everyone and BAR will act quickly to put bad players out of business."

In March 2011, BAR surveillance of Uptown Smog found that Moises Zepeda certified Smog Check inspections on multiple vehicles that were never at his station. Zepeda used a method called "clean piping" to certify vehicles. Clean piping occurs when a technician or other individual uses a clean exhaust sample from another vehicle that will pass a Smog Check inspection while entering data for the vehicle for which the Smog Check is required.

"The goal of California's Smog Check Program is to reduce air pollution by bringing vehicles into compliance with emissions standards," said BAR Chief Sherry Mehl. "When a shop illegally certifies vehicles that do not meet emissions standards, it only makes the problem worse."

BAR sought the ISOs to shut down Uptown Smog Test Only and prevent Zepeda from being able to work as a licensed Smog Check technician while BAR proceeds with its enforcement case. BAR is seeking to permanently revoke both licenses.

An administrative hearing will be held at a later date to address the violations found during the investigation.

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The Department of Consumer Affairs promotes and protects the interests of California Consumers. Consumers who wish to file a complaint against an auto repair facility can contact the Department of Consumer Affairs/Bureau of Automotive Repair at (800) 952-5210. Consumers can also file a complaint online at www.autorepair.ca.gov.