



## PRESS RELEASE

November 25, 2009

### RE: TOXCO FIRE

Kootenay Boundary Regional Fire Rescue in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment and Toxco Waste Management Ltd. have completed an investigation into the November 7, 2009 Lithium Battery Fire that occurred in the Trail Industrial Park 10 kilometers South of the City of Trail, B.C.

Previous fires at this location have resulted in Toxco Waste Management engaging Fire Protection Engineers to perform design upgrades to their facility which compartmentalized phases of the operation for containment of fire should they occur. The November 7, 2009 fire took place in an existing stand alone battery discharge building located on the North East corner of the property. Although the structure was a total loss the fire was contained on site to the area of origin. Fire extension was experienced to the adjoining Regional District Recycling facility and caused by hot flying projectiles from the discharge building.

The heat and the nature of the fire was extremely intense disrupting all evidence at the point of fire origin. Therefore the cause of the November 7<sup>th</sup> fire will remain as undetermined with strong suspicion of failure in a single battery causing fire extension to the product stored in this immediate area.

Toxco Waste Management continues to work with the Ministry of Environment and Fire Protection Engineers to ensure a safer operation for the future.

Lithium batteries are very common in our everyday lives and found in cameras, cell phones, laptop computers, and most recently in electric cars on our roadways. Lithium will react violently when in contact with moisture and therefore the batteries must be disposed of appropriately by recycling. We remind the public not to store spent lithium batteries in your homes and do not dispose of lithium batteries into your domestic garbage. If batteries make their way to landfill sites the lithium can be exposed by heavy equipment operation and moisture will cause fire reaction. Fires in landfills are very difficult to extinguish and can burn for years underground.

We encourage the public to use safe practices while disposing of lithium type batteries and please contact your local fire officials if you have any questions on this product.