

From: [Keith McHenry](#)
To: [Lisa Hernandez](#)
Cc: [Board Of Supervisors](#)
Subject: (March 11, 2025) Santa Cruz county is ignoring the health impact of the world's largest lithium battery fire.
Date: Tuesday, March 11, 2025 3:04:42 PM

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(March 11, 2025) My eyes and tongue are burning as bad or worse as yesterday. The pain is unbearable. The skin on my girlfriends face is burning off again this morning. It has been scorched for weeks now. The acid has burned a few holes in her face. Our lungs seem to be damaged as it is hard to breathe. I am exhaling a strong metal taste and have the Vestra cough. So far medical professions in our area don't seem to know how to treat the poisoning. A number of people are so ill they are putting their homes up for sale. May family is trying to get out of the toxic zone for a bit to see if that helps. A farmer I met at the Watsonville Film Festival told me not to eat the produce from the area. There is no county coordination or emergency response yet in Santa Cruz. There was supposed to be a town hall meeting organized by Felipe Hernandez but so far we have no details. There is also a vote said to be held on April 25th to create zones in the county where these toxic dangerous lithium battery storage site would be allowed. People have been trying to meet with the county supervisors to talk about the impact of the world's largest lithium battery fire and the possibility of there being three storage sites in our county but it seems the supervisors are dodging us.

It would be great if the county would step up and help its people after one of Santa Cruz's largest health crisis.

Thanks

Keith McHenry



From: [Monica Lucas](#)
To: [Board Of Supervisors](#)
Subject: Lithium-ion Battery Storage Facilities Proposed for Santa Cruz.
Date: Friday, March 7, 2025 10:22:27 AM

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Dear Supervisors,

My name is Monica Lucas, a California native (67 yrs.), born in San Francisco; and always longed for an existence in the Santa Cruz Mountains, which I achieved after keeping my eye on the goal for many years, in order to live in a safe, verdant, and friendly home. I bought my little cottage in 2011, and was finally content, in Boulder Creek. Since then, I've learned that the river that flows by my house is filled with all kinds of horrors that neighborhood children soak in on a hot summer day, that our drinking water is filled with microplastics that we pay a premium amount to have the privilege of ingesting, and that toxic clouds of chemical emissions nestle in the valleys of these mountains, one of which I live in, and being disabled, don't leave often. I'm concerned about this proposal. I've only seen one post about it on social media, and don't know how to access the actual document. So, my question is:

Is this true?

PROPOSED LOCATIONS

1. Behind Dominican Hospital
2. Next to Aptos High School
3. 90 Minto Road Watsonville


Thousands of people in Santa Cruz and Monterey counties are ill from the toxic air released during the world's largest lithium-ion battery fire on January 16, 2025 at the Moss Landing Battery Storage Site.

If California is to continue to be perceived as the beacon of environmental safety, we must ban lithium-ion battery storage facilities in our communities.

Please consider that our nation is in turmoil, we have endured many tragedies here due to climate events, and deregulation is accelerating as I write. Now there's an executive order to cut down a third of our national forests. We are in dire need of good news, people in positions of power to make the right decisions for the people.

Regards,

Monica Lucas



From: [Keith McHenry](#)
To: [Lisa Hernandez](#)
Cc: [First District](#); [Second District](#); [Justin Cummings](#); [Felipe Hernandez](#); [Fifth District](#); [Board Of Supervisors](#)
Subject: Thousands of people in Santa Cruz and Monterey counties are ill from the toxic air released during the world's largest lithium-ion battery fire on January 16, 2025 at the Moss Landing Battery Storage Site.
Date: Friday, March 7, 2025 9:58:41 AM

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I am suffering more this morning than is past days from being poisoned by the world's largest lithium-ion battery fire at Moss Landing. My eyes and tongue are burning and I have a strange feeling in my head. I am also exhaling a strong metal into my mouth. I have been trying to see a toxicologist at Stanford but they are not sure who to direct me to.

Thousands of people in Santa Cruz and Monterey counties are ill from the toxic air released during the world's largest lithium-ion battery fire on January 16, 2025 at the Moss Landing Battery Storage Site. We are having to seek solutions ourselves since county officials have provided no guidance.

If you have burning eyes, metallic taste, sore throat, burning tongue, cough, nausea, rash, difficulty breathing, headaches, exhaustion and more you may have been poisoned by the fire.
Keith McHenry



(March 7, 2025)

From: [Karen Kaplan](#)
To: [Manu Koenig](#); [Kimberly De Serpa](#); [Justin Cummings](#); [Felipe Hernandez](#); [Monica Martinez](#); [Board Of Supervisors](#)
Subject: No on Proposed Lithium Battery Plants for Santa Cruz County
Date: Saturday, March 8, 2025 4:02:11 PM

******CAUTION:**This is an EXTERNAL email. Exercise caution. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email.****

Dear Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors:
RE: NO on Proposed Battery Plant Sites

Please do not locate Lithium Battery Plants in populated areas.

Recent fires at Moss Landing proved that fires and toxic fumes are a risk to the health and safety of humans, plants and animals, may pollute the environment and destroy housing and businesses.

More research needs to be done to determine if agriculture, soil, water, livestock, marine life, etc. would be affected by lithium fires that could not be extinguished by water and how lithium fires may affect the food chain, in the aftermath.

I was recently informed about a proposal to locate a Lithium Battery Plant near Dominican Hospital, which I think is ludicrous! In an emergency, patients in a hospital who are not ambulatory, would not be able to evacuate, in a timely manner. The consequences to their health, lives and the safety of hospital workers would be potentially devastating. Hospital workers would be faced with an urgent decision to either immediately evacuate themselves or risk their lives by staying and evacuating bedridden patients. That places an unfair burden on healthcare providers and staff during a crisis situation.

Injured people depend on hospitals for help. How can a hospital help, if it is damaged and not available during an emergency?

Locating a Lithium Battery Plant near a school is hazardous and irresponsible. Adults need to make responsible decisions that protect children from potential harm and toxic air pollution. The potential need to evacuate hundreds of children in a crisis, creates a chaotic situation, especially when children can't drive and parents may not be available to pick them up. Schools are not equipped to handle massive evacuations, at a moment's notice. Children could suffer lifelong illnesses resulting from inhaling toxic fumes or getting burned from a lithium fire.

Gases produced during lithium-ion battery manufacturing may be highly flammable, explosive and toxic, posing serious risks to workers, products and facility safety.

Flammable gas monitors are supposed to continuously monitor hydrogen, carbon monoxide and volatile organic compounds, but monitors may fail.

Symptoms of breathing lithium hydroxide and other toxic chemicals may include eye and mucous membrane irritation, coughing, narrowing of airways, shortness of breath, bronchoconstriction, asphyxia, sneezing, sore throat, chest tightness, inflammation, pneumonitis, pulmonary edema, respiratory muscle dysfunction, partial

or complete lung collapse, abdominal pain, stomach ulcers, difficulty swallowing, slurred speech, blood in the sputum, dizziness, headache, fever, confusion, delirium, muscle twitches, muscle cramps, stiffness of arms or legs, numbness in fingers or toes, swollen hands or ankles, itching skin, rashes, hives, burns, fatigue, weight gain, depression, increased thirst, frequent urination, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, confusion, poor memory, lack of awareness, fast, pounding or irregular heartbeat or pulse, slow heartbeat, uncontrolled shaking, Parkinson's disease, coarse tremor, seizures, weakness, fainting, hyperreflexia, an exaggerated or overly active reflex response in the body, nystagmus, a condition characterized by involuntary, rhythmic and repetitive eye movements and ataxia, a neurological condition characterized by a lack of muscle coordination and balance. Severe exposure could result in a coma or death.

Long-term effects of toxic fumes may include permanent damage to lungs, eyes, teeth, brain, kidneys, hearing, stomach, thyroid gland and other organs, cause nerve disorders, disabling long-term sequelae, bronchiectasis, chronic airflow obstruction, bronchial hyperreactivity, reactive airways dysfunction syndrome, bronchiolitis obliterans, residual psychophysiologic dyspnea, cerebellar ataxia, basal ganglia dysfunction, akathisia, dyskinesia, cortical dysfunction, dementia, a weakened immune system, allergies, asthma, cancer, etc. Damage to the reproductive system may affect the mental, intellectual or physical development of children.

EDTA chelation therapy may help remove heavy metal accumulation from the body and reverse neurotoxicity.

Hemodialysis, methylene blue and albumin infusion may help treat ifosfamide-induced neurotoxicity, if a patient has symptoms of lithium poisoning.

The release of hydrogen fluoride from a Lithium-ion battery fire may be a severe risk in confined or semi-confined spaces. Hydrogen fluoride mixed with water forms hydrofluoric acid.

In a lithium fire, a sudden release of energy may be explosive, threatening lives and property.

Water doesn't extinguish flammable gases and vapors. Lithium-ion batteries extinguished with water can reignite.

Lithium battery fumes are harmful gases released when a lithium battery is damaged or overheats.

When lithium-ion batteries burn, they release a variety of toxic chemicals.

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is an asphyxiant gas.

Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) induces anoxia, a condition of reduced oxygen that can be fatal.

Hydrogen Chloride (HCl) can cause severe skin burns, eye damage and may damage fertility or an unborn child.

Hydrogen Cyanide (HCN) is fatal if swallowed, inhaled or contacts skin.

Hydrogen Fluoride (HF) can damage eyes, lungs and burn skin.

Lithium Hydroxide (LiOH) and Lithium Hydroxide Monohydrate (LiOH.H₂O) are both highly corrosive chemicals that can severely irritate and burn skin and eyes, potentially leading to eye damage. They can be toxic if ingested, inhaled or absorbed through the skin.

Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) can irritate the respiratory system, worsen asthma symptoms, cause lung inflammation, can be fatal if inhaled and may cause or intensify fire.

Methane (CH₄) is a highly flammable gas and is potentially explosive.

Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂) can cause respiratory problems such as bronchitis and can irritate the nose, throat and lungs. It may cause coughing, wheezing, phlegm and asthma attacks and has been linked to cardiovascular disease.

The hydrogen content of released gases can create vapor cloud explosions.

PM_{2.5} Particulate Matter with a diameter of 2.5 micrometers or less, refers to tiny particles in the air that are invisible to the naked eye. Small, fine particles can penetrate deep into the lungs and bloodstream, causing respiratory, cardiovascular and other diseases such as respiratory infections, asthma, bronchitis, heart disease, lung cancer, stroke, premature birth and low birth weight.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in the United States has set limits on the amount of PM_{2.5} in the air.

PM_{2.5} monitoring is important to protect public health. High levels of microscopic particulate matter in the air may require taking necessary precautions, such as staying indoors, closing windows and doors, avoiding outdoor activities or wearing a mask.

Although Hydrogen Fluoride (HF) is lighter than air and would disperse when released, a cloud of vapor and aerosol that is heavier than air may be formed (EPA 1993). On exposure to skin or by inhaling, skin burns and lung damage may take hours or weeks to develop, following exposure.

The main danger with lithium batteries is overheating, which can occur due to excessive charging, physical damage or extreme temperatures, leading to fire or an explosion.

Lithium batteries must be stored in a cool, dry place, away from flammable materials and within the temperature range recommended by the manufacturer.

The correct charger is designed for a specific battery and batteries should not be plugged in for extended periods.

Batteries require inspections for signs of damage such as swelling, leaks or deformation. Damaged batteries must be disposed of properly. Battery terminals should be taped when brought to a recycling center, to prevent fires.

Lithium batteries contain potentially toxic materials including metals, such as copper, nickel, lead and organic chemicals, such as toxic and flammable electrolytes containing LiClO₄, LiBF₄ and LiPF₆.

Burning of the most abundant isotope, Lithium-7, occurs by a collision of Lithium-7

and a proton producing Beryllium-8, which promptly decays into two Helium-4 nuclei. The temperature necessary for this reaction is just below the temperature necessary for hydrogen fusion.

Severe toxic fume inhalations are usually accidental, caused by human error or equipment failure.

Lithium battery fires can reach temperatures of 3,632° F (2,000° C) or higher and can be extremely difficult to extinguish because they can burn for many hours or days.

When a lithium battery's temperature reaches a critical threshold, it can trigger a chain reaction called "thermal runaway" that produces more heat, which causes more chemical reactions. The temperature of the battery cell can rise in milliseconds.

Lithium salts in the battery are self-oxidizing so they can't be "starved out" like a traditional fire. Lithium battery fires are prone to reigniting.

Using water to put out a lithium battery fire can lead to a hydrogen gas explosion.

A Class D lithium-ion fire extinguisher, foam, CO2, ABC dry chemical, powdered graphite, copper powder, sand, baking soda (sodium bicarbonate), dry cement or a fire blanket may smother, cool or extinguish a lithium fire.

It is best to evacuate the area, move away from the battery as quickly as possible and alert others to leave the area.

Lithium batteries can flare up again, hours after a fire appears, can explode and send sharp metal shards flying.

Water mist may contain a lithium-ion battery fire, but it may take a lot of water and time.

I am not a doctor nor scientist, so you may check the facts and assertions.

Thank you for your consideration when making decisions that may risk the health and safety of our community.

Sincerely,

Karen Kaplan
Resident of Santa Cruz County Since 1974

|

From: [Linda Werner](#)
To: [Board Of Supervisors](#)
Subject: Stop Lithium Battery Storage Facilities in SC County
Date: Tuesday, March 11, 2025 9:47:03 PM

******CAUTION:**This is an EXTERNAL email. Exercise caution. DO NOT
open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected
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Stop Lithium Battery Storage Facilities in SC County. I remember Jan 16, 2025 because I had spent 30 minutes outside my house before finding out about the fire in Moss Landing. I had a metallic taste in my mouth and had a sore throat. I didn't feel great for the rest of the day. And I live on the Westside of Santa Cruz. Please stop additional Lithium Battery Storage Facilities in SC County at least until the technology makes it nearly impossible for this kind of accident to happen again.

Linda Werner

Linda Werner, Ph.D.
Adjunct Professor, Computer Science & Engineering
University of California, Santa Cruz

From: [Board Of Supervisors](#)
To: [Jesseka Rodriguez](#)
Subject: FW: No lithium battery storage
Date: Thursday, March 6, 2025 1:34:11 PM

-----Original Message-----

From: Gail Cruse [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 5, 2025 9:06 AM
To: Board Of Supervisors <boardofsupervisors@santacruzcountyca.gov>
Subject: No lithium battery storage

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We reject the proposal to install lithium battery storage units in Santa Cruz County!

Gail Cruse
[REDACTED]

From: [Roland Saher](#)
To: [Board Of Supervisors](#)
Subject: energy storage
Date: Sunday, March 16, 2025 9:06:12 PM

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open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected
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Dear Supervisors, I urge you to demand thorough research on all available systems of energy storage. The criteria must include safety, both in terms of the possibility of fires and toxic emissions, performance sufficient for the needs of the people and businesses in the county, sustainability, including ethical sourcing affordability.

I for one believe that a system that fulfills those measures doesn't have to have been produced in the US.

roland Saher

From: cindybrooksmft
To: [Board Of Supervisors](#)
Subject: Fwd: Constituent request
Date: Sunday, March 16, 2025 9:28:33 PM

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Please see my email to Kim DeSerpa below.

Cindy Brooks, LMFT
www.cindybrooksmft.com

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: cindybrooksmft <[REDACTED]>
Date: Sun, Mar 16, 2025 at 9:26 PM
Subject: Constituent request
To: <second.district@santacruzcountyca.gov>

Dear Ms. DeSerpa,
I live in your District, in Aptos, and I have been and will continue to be adversely affected by the toxic discharges from the BESS plant in Moss Landing. My house has filled up with acid, toxic fumes even recently, not just during the two fires there in January and February. I hear this could go on for another year, this is a serious health risk for the public. I am very concerned that there are plans for more Lithium-based battery storage facilities for our community. I am a therapist and my livelihood is dependent on my practice here, for which I have built up a referral network over many years. I am deeply concerned about whether I could continue to live here, in this coastal area that I love, if these BESS facilities are sited nearby.
Please hold a Town Hall meeting in the immediate future to hear from the public about this issue.
Thank you.
Sincerely,
Cindy Brooks

Cindy Brooks, LMFT
www.cindybrooksmft.com

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From: [Dylan Groves](#)
To: [Board Of Supervisors](#)
Subject: Lithium-Ion Battery Storage Facilities
Date: Thursday, March 13, 2025 8:27:49 PM

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open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected
email.****

Howdy,

Just want to offer my thanks in advance for all that I trust you're working on in regards to preserving and maintaining public support and funding for our great American enterprise of lithium batteries.

Sincerely,
Dylan Groves, a Santa Cruz County resident

From: [Eagleton, Willie W](#)
To: [Board Of Supervisors](#)
Subject: No Battery Storage Plants
Date: Sunday, March 16, 2025 1:42:46 PM

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Hello There,

I am a local Realtor and lifelong resident of Santa Cruz County. I currently live in Aptos.

Myself and many other community members were shocked and appalled by the battery fire at Moss landing, and the mishandling of the situation by Vistra Energy.

While the idea of energy storage is great, the technology is obviously not there yet. Why would a battery plant that has caught on fire multiple times be placed next to the Monterey Bay preserve, and the sensitive Elkhorn Slough (not to mention next to the Nation's largest agricultural area)?

As a surfer, we cannot even use jet skis in the Monterey Bay. But somehow, this battery plant, spilling toxic smoke and residue into this sensitive area, is ok?

Please do not build any more plants, and the current one at Moss Landing must be decommissioned and moved to a less sensitive area.

Thank you.



WILLIE EAGLETON

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From: [Keith McHenry](#)
To: [gail.williamson](#)
Cc: [Lisa Hernandez](#); [Felipe Hernandez](#); [Dennis Bernstein](#); [Justin Cummings](#); [Bruce Van Allen](#)
Subject: Santa Cruz staff person at John Laird's office claims that they have been no reports of health issues as a result of the Moss Landing fire
Date: Friday, March 14, 2025 11:19:11 AM
Attachments: [Jx0087z7fryP3uxo.png](#)

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If you feel you may have been poisoned by the world's largest lithium battery fire please call Senator John Laird's office.

I just called John Laird's Santa Cruz office to report my symptoms. The staff person was combative and told me that the county claims no one has been made ill from the fire. He claimed we need lithium battery storage sites to store the wind and solar energy and that California is selling its electricity to Arizona. I told him that my friends in Tucson are protesting the placement of a nuclear power station outside of town.

He was dismissive when I told him that my tongue and eyes are still burning today and that the fire in my throat woke me this morning. I also reported that the face of my girlfriend is burning off and she has burn holes in her cheeks and neck.

He told me to report my health concerns to the Santa Cruz health officer and the board of supervisors. I told him I had done so nearly every weekday since January 18, 2025. He repeated that I should report my health concerns to the county health officer.

He said the county health officials had not reported any illnesses from the fire. There are thousands of us in the county that are suffering. I have meet people who are trying to sell their homes.

He was amazingly rude.

Keith McHenry

From: [Coppel, Gabrielle](#)
To: [Board Of Supervisors](#)
Subject: Stop on More Lithium Battery Plants!
Date: Friday, March 14, 2025 3:19:38 PM

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Gabrielle Coppel
REALTOR® | Coldwell Banker Realty

.....
Top 4% International Presidents Circle

Phone: 831.359.9826 | DRE# 01414420

Website: www.gabriellecoppel.com

Oceanview and Ocean Front Homes

I am writing this email to completely oppose any more Lithium Battery Storage plants being put here in Santa Cruz or Monterey Counties,..its way too dangerous and way too toxic and very very Dangerous for all the people, kids, pets, animal, plants, food etc,..PLEASE RECONSIDER any plans of adding more of these completely toxic and unsafe storage facilities.
Thank you,..Gabrielle Coppel

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know is valid to confirm the instructions. Additionally, please note that the sender does not have authority to bind a party to a real estate contract via written or verbal communication.

From: [Board Of Supervisors](#)
To: [Jesseka Rodriguez](#)
Subject: FW: Addressing Nitrous Oxide in Santa Cruz County
Date: Monday, March 17, 2025 3:08:50 PM
Attachments: [6ef39e63-861d-4bbf-87ec-27f4d58c76b7.png](#)

From: Cody [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2025 10:52 AM
To: Board Of Supervisors <boardofsupervisors@santacruzcountyca.gov>
Subject: Addressing Nitrous Oxide in Santa Cruz County

******CAUTION:** This is an EXTERNAL email. Exercise caution. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email.****

Good morning,

Thank you for taking the time to read this. I hope this message finds you well.

I am reaching out to encourage a discussion on banning the retail sale of nitrous oxide (N₂O) in Santa Cruz County, but I am unsure where to begin. My goal is to raise awareness about the extreme recreational use of N₂O in our community, an issue that often flies under the radar.

Earlier this year, [Orange County became the first in California](#) to ban retail sales of nitrous oxide, and [Grass Valley is currently working to strengthen its municipal codes on the substance](#). I believe Santa Cruz County should consider similar measures to address this growing concern.

On a personal note, I struggled with severe N₂O addiction for five years and was caught in possession of a canister on 12/12/24. Since then, I have been in recovery through the support of Narcotics Anonymous and Alcoholics Anonymous, and I am thriving within these fellowships. My deepest desire is to be of service to others who are struggling with this substance.

Despite existing regulations under Penal Code 381e (see screenshot), enforcement appears lacking. I can name at least 10 smoke shops within a five-mile radius that, in my experience, do not adhere to these legal requirements. One particularly concerning example is **GREAT GAS at 1024 Water St., Santa Cruz**, which sells nitrous oxide 24/7, 365 days a year. Yet, due to its proximity to **Monarch Elementary (0.2 miles away)** and **Branciforte Middle School (0.3 miles away)**, it is prohibited from selling cigarettes or vapes—highlighting an inconsistency in

how substances are regulated.

I appreciate the work you do to make Santa Cruz a progressive, sustainable, and safe county, and I would love guidance on how to further this conversation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

-Cody Mahler

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California Penal Code Section 381e regulates the dispensing and distribution of nitrous oxide, commonly known as "laughing gas," to prevent its misuse for recreational inhalation. The statute outlines specific requirements for sellers to ensure that nitrous oxide is not sold for abusive purposes. [robertmhelfand.com](#) +8

Key Provisions of Penal Code Section 381e:

1. Record-Keeping Requirements:

- Sellers must document each transaction involving nitrous oxide, requiring the purchaser to sign and provide a complete residential address along with valid government-issued photo identification. [law.justia.com](#) +2
- The seller must also sign and date the document, retaining it at their business address for one year. These records must be available for inspection by authorized law enforcement personnel during normal business hours. [codes.findlaw.com](#) +2

2. Purchaser Warnings:

- The transaction document must inform purchasers that inhalation of nitrous oxide outside of a clinical setting can have dangerous health effects. [codes.findlaw.com](#) +6
- It must also notify that possessing nitrous oxide with the intent to inhale it for intoxication is illegal, as is distributing it to someone who intends to misuse it. [law.justia.com](#) +6