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For Immediate Release

Recycling Truck Catches Fire in San Mateo RethinkWaste Urges Residents to Properly Dispose of Batteries

SAN CARLOS, CA – April 2, 2021 – A Recology San Mateo County rear end loader truck experienced a fire today at approximately 5:20 a.m. The driver is safe, but the truck could not be recovered due to fire damage.

The fire occurred on East Santa Inez Ave near Highland Ave in San Mateo. The City of San Mateo Police and Fire departments arrived on scene and extinguished the fire inside the truck as well as some minor burning of bushes near the truck location. The cause of the fire is yet to be determined.

While we don't know the exact cause of the fire that occurred inside the truck, it could have easily been due to a lithium-ion battery that was incorrectly placed into the recycling. RethinkWaste continues to emphasize the need for safe and proper disposal to avoid the hazards of fires, which can result in safety risks for our workers, environment, and even facility. In September 2016, our Shoreway Environmental Center's Materials Recovery Facility suffered a four-alarm fire that caused nearly \$8.5 million in damages likely due to a lithium-ion battery.

For tips or best practices on safe battery disposal, please visit RethinkBatteries.org and our social media channels for information.

About RethinkWaste

RethinkWaste is a joint powers authority of eleven public agencies in San Mateo County (Belmont, Burlingame, East Palo Alto, Foster City, Hillsborough, Menlo Park, Redwood City, San Carlos, City of San Mateo, parts of unincorporated San Mateo County and the West Bay Sanitary District). We own and manage the 16-acre Shoreway Environmental Center facility, located at 333 Shoreway Road in San Carlos, which processes all the collected trash, recyclable and compostable materials. This facility has a \$130 million-dollar annual operating budget, handles and processes almost 500,000 tons of materials annually--more than half are recycled and creates almost 400 jobs for our local community. See RethinkWaste.org and follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

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