

# Vehicle Dismantler Industry Strike Team

DISCLAIMER NOTICE: The following is an accessible outline of the April 25, 2024 PowerPoint presentation by the Vehicle Dismantler Industry Strike Team, Region II. To view a webcast recording of the presentation, visit the BAR Advisory Group page at [www.bar.ca.gov/bar-advisory-group](http://www.bar.ca.gov/bar-advisory-group).

## Slide 1: Vehicle Dismantler Industry Strike Team (VDIST)

Randy Vera, Deputy Chief, Region II / VDIST Oversight  
AP Mehta, Commander, Orange Area / VDIST Field & Administrative Commander

## Slide 2: California VDIST

VDIST History – AB 1858 / 11545(c) CVC

## Slide 3: AB 1858 Legislation / CVC 11545(c)

Department of Motor Vehicles, Investigation Division Vehicle Dismantler Industry Strike Team Report to the Legislature, in accordance with California Vehicle Code Section 11545(c), January 21, 2020

## Slide 4: AB 1858 / CVC 11545(c) Questions

- (A) The number of unlicensed dismantlers investigated.
- (B) Any statutory or regulatory gaps for investigation and prosecution.
- (C) Information on how vehicles are acquired by unlicensed dismantlers.
- (D) A summary of the barriers to adequate and efficient enforcement.
- (E) Proposed strategies for bringing unlicensed dismantlers into compliance.
- (F) Recommendations for the enforcement and compliance activities pursuant to this section.
- (G) Recommendations for statutory changes needed to allow for enforcement.

## Slide 5: VDIST Unit Structure

- Deputy Chief – Program manager / Overall oversight – Randy Vera
- Area Commander – Field & Admin oversight – AP Mehta
- Analyst (AGPA) – Data / Technology / Administrative – Priya Aghera
- Sargeants – Cruz, Gamez, Hardcastle, Hernandez, Reid
- Investigators (13) – Full time assignment

## Slide 6: VDIST Statistics

- As of 12/2019 (End of Legislation) – 3 Years
  - Cases Generated: 1,067
  - Unlicensed Dismantler: 812
  - Citations Issued: 541

- Operations Conducted: 40
- As of 3/1/2024 (2 years with no legislation) - 7.25 years
  - Cases Generated: 2,198
  - Unlicensed Dismantler: 1,234
  - Citations Issued: 1,152
  - Operations Conducted: 104

#### Slide 7: Legislative Report Generated by VDIST

- Some Highlights:
  - Statutory and Regulatory Gaps
    - CVC 11500
    - CVC 1662
    - CVC 220
    - No authority to shut down (abate) a business
  - Recommendations
    - Escalating fines
    - Eliminate CVC 1662
    - Define “ personal vehicle” in CVC 220
    - Abatement component

#### Slide 8: SB 366 Legislation

- Introduced in 2021

#### Slide 9: SB 366

- California VDIST

#### Slide 10: SB 366

- It is the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation to continue the work of the Vehicle Dismantling Industry Strike Team and to implement the January 21, 2020, recommendations of the strike team to address the problem of unlicensed automobile dismantling and to require state agencies to continue in their collaboration to combat unlicensed and unregulated automobile dismantling for the purposes of investigating environmental impacts, public health impacts, and tax evasion that is occurring as a result of this activity, and to implement strategies to bring unlicensed automobile dismantlers into compliance through compliance assistance, education, training, and other methods.

#### Slide 11: SB 366 – What’s New...

- CVC 11500
  - Fines
  - Building Abatement
- CVC 1662

- CVC 11545

#### Slide 12: CVC 11545 Amendments

- CVC 11545(a)(b) remains the same.
  - Same agencies collaborate.
  - Collaborate with other federal, state and local agencies with like oversight.

#### Slide 13: CVC 11545 Amendments

- 11545(c)(1) CVC, On or before January 1, 2024, the department, in collaboration with the agencies listed in subdivision (a), shall submit a report to the Legislature including, but not limited to, the following:
  - (A) The number of unlicensed automobile dismantlers investigated and the number of investigations that resulted in an administrative enforcement action, a civil enforcement action, criminal prosecution, or compliance assistance activity.
  - (B) The number of unlicensed automobile dismantlers investigated and the number of investigations that resulted in an enforcement action for theft of a catalytic converter or purchase, receipt, possession, or sale of a stolen catalytic convertor.
  - (C) The number of locations used for unlicensed automobile dismantling that were determined to be a public nuisance and the number of actions taken to enjoin, abate, or prevent the illegal activity from continuing.
  - (D) Progress made to bring unlicensed automobile dismantlers into compliance through the adoption and implementation of the recommendations from the January 21, 2020, report submitted to the Legislature pursuant to Assembly Bill 1858 of the 2015–16 Regular Session.
  - (E) Remaining statutory, administrative, or regulatory gaps for investigating and prosecuting unlicensed automobile dismantlers.
  - (F) Recommendations for additional strategies for bringing unlicensed automobile dismantlers into compliance through compliance assistance, education, training, or other identified methods.
  - (G) Recommendations for modifying, eliminating, or continuing the coordinated enforcement and compliance activities pursuant to this section.

#### Slide 14: 1<sup>st</sup> VDIST Operation (January 2022) Under the New Legislation

- Worked with Hemet PD targeting areas where they believed catalytic converters were being sold.
- Operation took place on 1/20/2022.
- VDIST, DMV, INV, Hemet Police Department, and Riverside County Sheriff's Department.
- Cities of Hemet and San Jacinto.

- Approximately 50 locations identified.

#### Slide 15: VDIST Operation Results

- 12 businesses were inspected.
- 10 citations were issued.
- 52 catalytic converters seized.

#### Slide 16: Collaboration is Key

- VDIST
- DMV Investigations
- HEMET Police Department
- Riverside County Sheriff's Department

#### Slide 17: February 2022 – VDIST Training

- Multi Agency Training
- Took place February 22 – 25, 2022
- Arroyo Grande and Santa Maria
- Approximately 35 locations were identified.

#### Slide 18: VDIST Training and Operation

- 22 Businesses inspected
- 22 Misdemeanor citations
  - 16 for Unlicensed Activity
  - 6 for Environmental Violations
- 25 Catalytic Converters seized (one location)

#### Slide 19: 01/2022 – 03/2024

- 45 Proactive Tactical Operations.
- Cases are generated by consumers, other law enforcement or collaborating agencies, licensees, and investigators.

#### Slide 20: How Are We Doing? What the Numbers Tell Us...

- L14 – Unlicensed Dismantler Cases Opened
  - Bar chart depicting the number of cases
    - 2017 – 199
    - 2018 – 403
    - 2019 – 219

- 2020 – 204
- 2021 – 84
- 2022 – 83
- 2023 – 25

Slide 21: How Are We Doing? What the Numbers Tell Us...

- L15 – Crimes Associated with Unlicensed Dismantling Cases Opened
  - Bar chart depicting the number of crimes
    - 2017 – 8
    - 2018 – 93
    - 2019 – 184
    - 2020 – 82
    - 2021 – 133
    - 2022 – 186
    - 2023 – 89

Slide 22: How Are We Doing? What the Numbers Tell Us...

- V96 – Catalytic Converter Related Cases Opened
  - Bar chart depicting the number of VDIST cases
    - 2022 – 17
    - 2023 – 5

Slide 23: How Are We Doing? What the Numbers Tell Us...

- Total Violations Substantiated (Citations) by VDIST Members
  - Bar chart depicting number of citations
    - 2017 – 119
    - 2018 – 239
    - 2019 – 238
    - 2020 – 74
    - 2021 – 120
    - 2022 – 227
    - 2023 – 83

Slide 24: How Are We Doing? What the Numbers Tell Us...

- Citations for 11500 CVC Violations - Unlicensed Auto Dismantling
  - Bar chart depicting number of unlicensed auto dismantling violations
    - 2017 – 108
    - 2018 – 153
    - 2019 – 82
    - 2020 – 18
    - 2021 – 38
    - 2022 – 95
    - 2023 – 19

- Citations for 9884.6 B&P Violations - Unlicensed Auto Repair
  - Bar chart depicting number of unlicensed auto repair violations
    - 2017 – 47
    - 2018 – 126
    - 2019 – 169
    - 2020 – 46
    - 2021 – 85
    - 2022 – 157
    - 2023 – 40

Slide 25: How Are We Doing? What the Numbers Tell Us...

- 21610 B&P Citations – Failure to Maintain Business Records
  - Bar chart depicting 21610 B&P citations
    - 2022 – 9 total
- 9984.11 and 9884.9 B&P Citations – Licensed Repair Shop Failure to Maintain Business Records
  - Bar chart depicting 9984.11 and 9884.9 B&P citations
    - 2022 – 6 total
    - 2023 – 2 total

Slide 26: Looking into the Future

- Collaborate
- Expand our knowledge
- Incorporate data analytics into our program
- Outreach
- Analysis of new legislation

Slide 27: Questions?

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