

**MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM, GOVERNOR**

James C. Kenney, Cabinet Secretary

Jennifer J. Pruet, Deputy Secretary

**NEWS RELEASE***For Immediate Release***April 14, 2021**

*The Environment Department's mission is to protect and restore the environment and to foster a healthy and prosperous New Mexico for present and future generations.*

**Contact:** Maddy Hayden, Communications Director  
New Mexico Environment Department  
505.231.8800 | maddy.hayden@state.nm.us

**Environment Department issues citations, fines to  
New MexiCann Natural Medicine for workplace safety violations***October 2020 explosion seriously injured two workers*

**SANTA FE** – The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) issued **six citations** to New MexiCann Natural Medicine for violations of the state Occupational Health and Safety Act related to a fire that severely injured two workers in October 2020. NMED assessed penalties of \$142,348 for the violations following an investigation by its Occupational Health and Safety Bureau.

NMED cited the company for violations at its facility located on San Mateo Lane in Santa Fe for failing to:

- Ensure employees could quickly exit the facility's cannabis extraction room in an emergency
- Control flammable vapors from an extraction system
- Control ignition sources
- Assess hazards and determine what protective equipment was needed for workers
- Implement a respirator program
- Institute a program to address hazardous chemicals.

“The indifference shown to worker safety by this company is inexcusable,” said NMED Cabinet Secretary James Kenney. “Willful violations of worker safety requirements must have consequences for employers – every employee deserves to come home from work healthy.”

New MexiCann has 15 business days from the date the citations were issued to pay the assessed penalties or contest the citations before the New Mexico Occupational Health and Safety Review Commission.

NMED issued citations to New MexiCann in 2016 following a 2015 explosion and fire that also seriously injured two workers.

###

NMED does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age or sex in the administration of its programs or activities, as required by applicable laws and regulations. NMED is responsible for coordination of compliance efforts and receipt of inquiries concerning non-discrimination requirements implemented by 40 C.F.R. Parts 5 and 7, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, and Section 13 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972. If you have any questions about this notice or any of NMED's non-discrimination programs, policies or procedures, you may contact:

Kathryn Becker, Non-Discrimination Coordinator | NMED | 1190 St. Francis Dr., Suite N4050 | P.O. Box 5469 | Santa Fe, NM 87502  
(505) 827-2855 or [nd.coordinator@state.nm.us](mailto:nd.coordinator@state.nm.us)

If you believe that you have been discriminated against with respect to a NMED program or activity, you may contact the Non-Discrimination Coordinator.

*###*