



P2
Quarterly

The Newsletter of Lee
County's Pollution
Prevention Program

Winter 2006

Program Staff

Dale L. Nottingham	Program Manager
Dorian Cauceglia	Sr. Environ. Specialist
Jaqueline Saiya	Sr. Environ. Specialist
Edgar Girard	Sr. Environ. Specialist
Mike Gates	Sr. Environ. Specialist
Jayne Coles	Planning Technician

www.lee-county.com/pollution

Published By:

P² Program
1500 Monroe Street
P.O. Box 398
Fort Myers, FL 33902
Phone: 239/479-8126
Fax: 239/479-8108

Do you need a speaker for an upcoming event? Would you like a specialized presentation for your next trade association meeting? Give us a call to schedule a time for your next educational needs. Lee County's Pollution Prevention Program has performed presentations in several parts of the country as well as Canada and Mexico. We are here to serve our business community. Just call (239) 479-8126.

Are Retail Stores Hazardous Waste Generators?

The answer depends on what products the store is selling and any other services they may provide. Stores that specialize in retail operations are those that sell housewares, dry goods, hardware, home furnishings, groceries, lawn and garden supplies, and other specialized goods. In general due to no specific production processes, retail operations are not perceived to generate any hazardous wastes from selling products, even though many of the products that are sold at the retail level can be hazardous. Paint products, lawn chemicals, cleaning products, pesticides and medicines can be hazardous waste when disposed. The processes from other services provided such as photo processing and pharmacies can generate hazardous wastes as well as the maintenance of the facility.

Once a product has been removed from a shelf or returned to the store from a customer, and that product will be discarded, then it becomes a solid waste. In order for anything to be a hazardous waste it must be a solid waste as defined by Part 261.2 of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). If any product intended for disposal meets the definitions of solid waste and then a hazardous waste, the retail operation is subject to hazardous waste generator requirements. These requirements include proper storage, labeling, record keeping, and disposal that are in accordance with RCRA (40 CFR 261, 262, & 263). In other words if you are removing a product from your shelves that is hazardous, or accepting a returned product that is hazardous, and do not plan to re-sell it as a product, then it must be treated as hazardous waste.

Other wastes that a store may generate have the potential to be classified as Universal Wastes, and must be recycled. These include all mercury containing devices and lamps as defined in Florida Administrative Code F.A.C. 62-730.185. Businesses operating in Lee County must recycle fluorescent tubes and other mercury-containing devices in accordance with F.A.C. 62-730.185. All electronic wastes, (e-wastes), must be recycled as Universal Waste. These types of wastes include items such as computers, printers, copy machines, and phones. Many electronic wastes contain hazardous metals such as lead, cadmium, mercury, and chromium. If a Universal Waste is not recycled in a documented process, then the business will be classified as a hazardous waste generator.

The best way for retail stores to know if they are generators is for owners, managers, and employees to become aware of the products in their store, and their potential to be deemed as hazardous. All retail stores must keep Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) on site for all hazardous products in the store and inform employees during safety meetings to refer to them in the case of a spill or an emergency. If a product is spilled in the store and is hazardous any materials used to clean up the spill must be treated as hazardous waste as well. This includes all absorbent materials. Disposing of hazardous products that have been spilled, damaged, or returned to the store in the garbage is illegal.

Lee County SW Florida Fair

It's that time of year again! Have a fun family night and go to the Lee County Southwest Florida Fair. The fair runs from February 24th through March 5th. Don't forget to stop by the Pollution Prevention Program's booth located inside the main building. We have educational information and free stuff for everyone.

What's new with P2 Web Site?

Our web site home page (lee-county.com/pollution) has a new crisp look to it. We have added some new links to make it easier to find whatever you are looking for.

On the left side of the screen under "Search This Department" you will have the option to search for key words on our site or go through Google.com for searching the web.

Under "What's New" you will see Secondary Containment Calculator. This tool will help you calculate your secondary containment storage needs for design/construction purposes.

Kids Corner: This is our new section to help educate the youth of Lee County. We have word search, picture puzzle, memory game, coloring book (which introduces our mascot Toxic Timmy) and we are currently working on the idea of a video game. All of this can be used to educate our youth on the importance of properly handling hazardous waste and universal waste from their homes.

Business Collection Day Schedule: This section will tell you when the next collection day for businesses is set for Page Field. It also provides the contact number for the collection company so you may call to verify disposal cost.

Hazardous Waste Publication: This section is connected to the Department of Environmental Protection's website. Here you will find documents covering everything from hazardous waste summaries, information on household hazardous waste, fact sheets for Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generators (CESQG), Small Quantity Generators (SQG), DEP/EPA forms and instructions, and general hazardous waste publications.

Operation Clean Sweep: This section is for commercial and private pesticide users notifying them of a statewide program for pesticide pick-up in 2006.

New Used Oil Rule: I'm sure those of you that generate used oil have heard of the change that took effect on June 1, 2005. If you need a quick reference regarding this State rule, just click on "New Used Oil Rule" for this specific State regulation.

Secondary Containment Supplies: Just in case you are not sure where to search for secondary containment supplies, we have those links to help you locate available products.

Secondary Containment Examples: This helpful site shows you examples of secondary containment systems with a key to calculate the secondary containment volume required for your storage containers.

Quick Links: This is a listing of other Departments within our Division of Natural Resources.

In the near future we will have a section called "Product Exchange". This section will be for businesses to list unused or surplus products that they would like to exchange or sell with another business. There will also be an option in this section for businesses to list types and quantities of products they need for their provided services and/or manufacturing needs. This section's goal is to help minimize good products from being thrown in the trash that could be utilized at another business. The P2 Program is the host and is not responsible for any product(s) being traded on our website. When utilizing this section, please verify all products in any transaction before pick-up and/or delivery.

The larger middle section under the banner is the same links and information you have seen before. Please take the time to look through our web page site. If you have questions on something you see and would like additional information, please let us know by contacting Jayne Coles at (239) 479-8519 or by clicking on "Staff" to utilize the e-mail system.

Arsenic In Your Drinking Water

The US EPA, on January 23, 2006, reduced the amount of arsenic allowed in your drinking water from 50 to 10 parts per billion. How will this reduction affect most home owners? Luckily, some of the consumers will not be affected as they are on a municipal water system with regular testing of their drinking water for arsenic. The results are then reported to the State Health Department and the EPA. Testing for most community water systems is being done every three years. Consumers on public drinking water receive an annual Consumer Confidence Report from their water supplier declaring any positive finding on any parameter analyzed from that year. The report must be submitted to every water system user on an annual basis by July 1st. If a consumer has not received the report, because of a recent move or if renting, they can call their water supplier for a copy.

The consumers who will be mostly affected by the lowering of the arsenic standard are homeowners who receive their water from private wells. Consumers' wells that are not routinely tested for arsenic, as it is not a parameter that is usually tested when applying for a mortgage, can have their wells tested by Lee County's Environmental Lab. You can contact the lab @ 278-7070, to check the cost and schedule a time for sampling the well.

What is arsenic? Arsenic is a metalloid element. It is odorless and tasteless and enters our drinking water supplies from natural deposits in the earth or from agricultural and industrial practices. Approximately 90% of arsenic used by industries in the US is currently used for wood treatment preserving purpose. It is also used in paints, drugs, dyes and soaps. Higher levels of arsenic tend to be found in ground water sources rather than in surface water.

The increasing demands on ground water from municipal systems, as well as private drinking water wells, can cause water levels to drop and release arsenic from rock formations. Florida's increasing population and the increasing demand for drinking water causes our water table to significantly drop thus putting people at risk of getting higher levels of arsenic.

Exposure to arsenic can cause both short and long term effects on the consumer. Short or acute effects include bladder, lung and skin cancers. National Academy of Science (NAS) studies have also found that arsenic harms the central and peripheral nervous systems as well as heart and blood vessels. It can also cause birth defects and reproductive problems.

If you are concerned that some of these industries, wood treatment, etc. are prevalent in your area, you should have your water supply tested to be sure that you and your family are not being adversely affected by arsenic. If the Pollution Prevention Program can be of additional assistance, please call 239-479-8126.

Used Oil Storage Tanks Require Secondary Containment

On June 1, 2005, changes to Florida Administrative Code 62-710 (FAC 62-710) pertaining to used oil became in effect. Lee County's P2 Program quickly set out to notify the business community and the response has been great, you may have received our letter. We have educated numerous businesses on how to purchase or construct secondary containment for their used oil containers but may not have gotten to everyone. In this article we would like to help those of you currently in the process of obtaining or building secondary containment for your used oil containers.

Let's start with the change in FAC 62-710. Under the new regulation it is now required that any containers holding used oil be in secondary containment of 110% and be covered from the weather. In order to calculate the amount of secondary containment needed, you would first multiply the size of your used oil container by 1.1, for this example we will use a 250 gallon used oil tank.

$$250 \times 1.1 = 275 \text{ gallons}$$

275 gallons of secondary containment would be needed to hold the 250 gallon used oil tank. Next, measure the dimensions (length, width and height) of your used oil tank. Use the following formulas to quickly calculate the dimensions of your secondary containment.

$$L + 5 = \text{Length of secondary containment}$$

$$W + 5 = \text{Width of secondary containment}$$

$$\frac{L \times W \times H}{(L + 5) \times (W + 5)} = \text{Height of secondary containment}$$

So if the 250 gallon container has the dimensions 47"x23"x72"(WxHxL) the secondary containment for that will have the dimensions 52"x20"x77"(WxHxL).

The changes to FAC 62-710 were made on June 1st 2005. A grace period of 6 months was given before enforcement action would be taken, that grace period expired on December 1st 2005. It is now mandatory that any oil containers and containment systems comply with FAC 62-710.

Department of Environmental Protection Workshop

In June 2005 DEP published guidelines to assist Florida Automotive Recyclers in understanding environmental regulations that govern the automotive recycling industry. The guide outlines requirements and environmental Best Management Practices (BMP's) for the auto recycler's industry as they apply to shop owners in the State of Florida. The goals of the guide were to help facilities reduce waste, comply with important environmental regulations and achieve an overall cleaner environment.

DEP is holding 9 workshops statewide in March and April to help shop owners achieve compliance, utilizing this guide. The date it will be available in the Fort Myers area is Monday April 3rd, 2006. The two different times available for this educational opportunity are 12:00 noon to 3:00pm and 6:00pm to 9:00pm at the State Regional Service Center located at 2295 Victoria Ave, Room 165 C&D in Fort Myers.

The workshops are free to everyone and are a great opportunity to learn how to protect the environment. Topics covered include BMP's, Spills and Leaks, Storage Container Management, all vehicle fluids and heavy metals, Storm Water Permitting, Storm Water P2 Plans, Generator status as well as question and answer time with the regulators. Don't wait to register and learn some valuable information designed to save you money and prevent regulatory enforcement.

There are several ways to register for this educational opportunity. One way is by contacting Charles Emery @ DEP's Fort Myers Office by calling him at (239) 332-6975. Second is by contacting Ms. Kathy Gaynor by calling her at (850) 245-8782 or e-mailing Ms. Gaynor at: kathy.gaynor @dep.state.fl.us. And lastly by registering on DEP's web page by going to www.dep.state.fl.us/waste/categories/hazardous/pages/AutomotiveRecyclers.htm The Lee County P2 Program hopes to see you there.

**The CESQG Business Collection Day Schedule
Sponsored by :
Lee County's
Department of Solid Waste
(Disposal Fee Involved)**

**April 13, 2006
July 20, 2006
September 21, 2006**

Collection times for the CESQG scheduled events are from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Location of the CESQG collection day is North Airport Road at Page Field. Scheduled collection days and times are subject to change and/or cancelations, depending on inclement weather. *There is a fee involved for disposal.* If you have any questions regarding the associated fees, please contact Jan Daniels of EQ Florida, Inc. at 1-800-624-5302 ext.231

Presort Standard
U.S. Postage
PAID
Ft. Myers, FL
Permit No. 756

P² Program
1500 Monroe Street
P.O. Box 398
Ft. Myers, FL 33902