

## Environmental Conference For All

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Department of Environmental Resources Management (DERM in Dade County) with coordination by the University of Florida's Center for Training, Research and Education for Environmental Occupations (TREEO) are sponsoring a conference July 31 through August 2, 2002. The event is called "The First Joint Statewide Pollution Prevention and Environmental Essentials Conference" and will be held at the Wyndham Miami Beach Hotel on Miami Beach. The theme of the conference is "Uniting Florida's Environment and Industry". The registration fee for the conference is \$75.00 for one day and \$125.00 for the full conference. This is your chance to experience the best of the best in the pollution prevention field.

This conference is an excellent opportunity for businesses to meet with regulatory professionals and discuss the virtues of pollution prevention with regard to compliance of regulations. You will have professional speakers that are experts in specific industries explaining the regulatory requirements of the industry and how to best comply with the regulations while utilizing cost saving pollution prevention technologies. Continuing education units (CEU's) approved by TREEO will be offered on some of the training courses and there are also three tours offered to unique facilities in the Miami area. The Florida Pollution Prevention Roundtable (FLPPR) will also be meeting and they invite newcomers to join the group and see what exciting P2 assistance is just a no-fee membership away.

Lee County's P2 staff will be attending the event as presenters and participating in the break-out educational sessions to expand our knowledge of cutting edge trends in pollution prevention. To obtain more information on registration for the event by e-mail, go to [train@treeo.doce.ufl.edu](mailto:train@treeo.doce.ufl.edu) or you can call TREEO at (352) 392-9570. You'll be glad you did!

### Making A Difference

Ever wonder if all the environmental regulations are working? Like any other regulation or law, is it making the difference that the author or sponsors intended? Environmental regulations are the legal minimums for a business community to comply with. Hazardous waste laws set the standards for how a facility manages their waste streams. It requires basics such as properly labeled containers to hold the waste, legal haulers to remove the waste, and documentation to record these activities. The purpose is to protect every citizen and their property from being contaminated. In some instances it has worked, in others it has not. There are no guarantees that a law or regulation is going to protect anyone. Without the conscience of the regulated, and the motivation of the enforcers, a regulation isn't worth the votes that were cast or the paper it was recorded on.

So how do we (government, businesses, citizens) ensure the intent of the regulation is carried out? By being involved and attending meetings, and providing appropriate input into the debate. This scenario lets everyone that will be impacted have a voice. It ensures the lobbyist of special interest do not always get what they want at our expense. It allows all potential problematic situations to be discussed and rectified before any action begins. It is why our fellow countrymen and women fought and died, as protectors for our way of life and our dreams for a better tomorrow. It is why everyone wants to come to our country and be a part of what we have. It is called democracy!

# P2

## Quarterly

The Newsletter of Lee  
County's Pollution  
Prevention Program

Spring/Summer 2002

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Does your facility need an extra pair of eyes to look at your operations? Do you need some help with your safety meetings? Got some nagging questions on compliance at your facility? Want to reduce your operational cost? Does your association need a speaker? Would you like to comment on the P2 Quarterly Newsletter? Call us, we'd like to help make a difference for all those willing to help themselves.

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## WHAT IS IN THAT PLASTIC BOTTLE?

Labels are an important part of your safety at work. Proper labeling can also save you money because the Florida Department of Environmental Protection can and will fine you for no label or an improper label. This article contains the correct wording for almost everything that you could handle at your job site.

The most important concept is to **label everything**. Label drums, tanks, and pipes that lead to and from tanks. Label buckets and spray bottles. Label everything that holds waste and/or product, **hazardous or non-hazardous**.

The difference between proper labeling and improper labeling can be a difference of a few words. Proper labels are as follows:

“**Used Antifreeze**” designates antifreeze that can be recycled.

“**Waste Antifreeze**” antifreeze that **cannot be reused** and must be counted as a waste

“**Reconditioned Antifreeze**” or “**Recycled Antifreeze**” should go on the product after it is recycled

“**Used Oil**” should be placed on all containers that hold oil that will be recycled, **even temporary buckets**. Do not place the words “**Waste Oil**” on your tank/drum unless the oil **will not or can not** be recycled. In this case it will count towards your Hazardous Waste Generator status.

“**Used Oil Filters**” and “**Used Fuel Filters**” should be on the containers that hold these objects.

“**Refrigerants**” should be placed on all machinery utilized to capture and/or process refrigerants.

“**Spent Mercury- Containing Lamps Destined for Recycling**” label should be on the box or drum in which you keep your old fluorescent tubes.

“**Spent Mercury –Containing Devices for Recycling**” should be placed on any container holding any switches or other mercury sources

“**Waste Mercury Devices**” should be placed on the items that are not going to be recycled and treated as hazardous waste. **Never put in the regular garbage!**

“**Used Shop Towels**” label should be placed on the designated storage area for the towels.

“**Hazardous Waste**” labels need to be filled out completely and placed on all containers that hold hazardous waste, no matter how small. A properly completed Hazardous Waste label contains the following information:

- “**Hazardous Waste-Federal Law Prohibits Improper Disposal. If found contact the nearest police or public safety authority or the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**”
- Generators Name and Address
- Manifest document #
- Proper DOT shipping name and ID #
- Federal Waste codes
- Start accumulation dates (the date of the first drop placed in the drum)

If you have a question on proper labeling, please call the Pollution Prevention Program at (239) 479-8126.

## National Pollution Prevention Week

National Pollution Prevention Week is September 16-22, 2002. This National event is celebrated to recognize the benefits of P2 in private and government organizations around the country. The leading advocate of P2 Week is the National Pollution Prevention Roundtable (NPPR) based in Washington DC, and is funded by the membership dues of private and governmental organizations. NPPR supports these organizations in their efforts to promote P2 activities in their local areas. Some "environmental" organizations are radical in their efforts to reverse us back to the horse and buggy days in order to "save the planet". The NPPR's approach is to look at ways to improve methods in the manufacturing of products, use of chemicals, and the consumption by consumers. With these three entities working together, they believe most of the environmental problems will be fixed and/or reversed. If you would like to join the NPPR, contact them at 202-466-7272 or check their web page at [www.p2.org](http://www.p2.org).

The Florida Pollution Prevention Roundtable is also leading the cause of P2 here in Florida. They are comprised of State and local government members who's goals are to provide information on P2 technologies and educational outreach. Their web page address is [www://flppr.org/](http://www://flppr.org/).

## New Employee Joins P2 Program

Jayne Coles is the P2 Program's new Planning Technician. She is responsible for handling customer service, consultant requests, processing Activity Certification Affidavits and data input. She has a diverse background in customer service with government agencies. She claims to be looking for a challenge that improves the quality of life for everyone, and believes she may have found it. We would like to welcome Jayne to her new career of preventing pollution. Jayne can be reached at (239) 479-8519.

## Renewal of Occupational Licenses

Yes, it is that time of year again. If you have not received your renewal notice from the Lee County Tax Collectors Office, they are on their way! You will notice a new format for occupational license renewing. Please read the information carefully to make sure it is correct before processing the renewal.

The Pollution Prevention Program receives its' funding from the surcharge attached to your occupational license. The surcharge is for businesses that have the potential to generate hazardous waste in their operations. If you believe your business does not generate hazardous waste, contact the P2 Program at 941-479-8126 to see if you qualify for an Activity Certification Affidavit (ACA). The ACA exempts qualified businesses from paying the surcharge fee. If you pay the surcharge and then apply for the ACA, **there are no refunds of the fee.** Contact our office for an interview before payment is made to see if your business qualifies to receive the ACA exemption.

The Activity Certification Affidavit (ACA) process is **free** to the applicant, currently the only free process associated with occupational licenses. In the near future there may be a fee charged for the processing of the ACA. The cost associated with the ACA process has been absorbed in the past, but changes may be required to prevent an increase in the current \$20.00 surcharge to non-exempt occupational license holders.

## Enforcement at Federal Level on the Increase

According to the Environmental Compliance Alert we receive, the EPA has stepped up enforcement actions across the country. Working with various States, the EPA is looking hard at facilities that generate hazardous waste. The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) requires facilities that generate hazardous waste

to properly handle the waste stream. This includes proper storage containers, labels, storage containment systems, site security and disposal with reputable licensed haulers properly documented. Since September 11, 2001 the need to properly dispose of hazardous waste has become critical to keeping potentially useful bomb making materials out of the hands of terrorists. Dirty bombs are easy to manufacture and can cause environmental disasters.

Have you looked at your facility lately to determine compliance? Is your storage area secure? Do you know anything about the company that is handling your waste? Have you asked questions as to where your waste is disposed? For everyone's safety, maybe you should!

## Is Compliance of Permits P2?

Generally, no. Most company's public relations revolve around claims that they are in compliance with their permits and are not polluters. The facts are permits allow facilities to pollute to "acceptable" limits. The question we all should ask is "acceptable" to whom? In order to not pollute, the first priority is to verify all known technologies for that procedure and perform cost analysis. This analysis should include the purchase of the product/material, how it would be utilized and the resulting waste stream. If you can choose a less toxic material/product, that has less harm to the employee and environment, costs of labor to perform the task in the process are the same. Results of this approach are less regulatory requirements on the facility and less impact on employee and disposal resources. You may want to look at materials that can be recycled onsite and reused. For instance paint thinner for brush/roller clean up. Buy a distiller that recycles the thinner to be used again for cleaning tools. Your purchase of virgin material and the disposal of dirty thinner costs will dramatically decrease. Less regulatory concerns and more money in your pocket!

**Lee County Performing Internal Facility Assessments**

The Pollution Prevention Program has begun internal assessments for some Lee County facilities. The purpose of these assessments is to determine on-site practices/procedures and regulatory environmental compliance status. Lee County is not exempt from Federal and State laws pertaining to the management of hazardous waste generated at any facility.

This assessment process was utilized in 1995 to address some issues at Lee County's Fleet Management. It helped to evolve the facility from a Large Quantity Generator status to a Non-Handling status or (Non-Generator). Although the facility still maintains all County vehicles and equipment, it was the first to achieve a Non-Handling status in the State of Florida and the United States for this type of operation. It took the combined effort of Fleet Management's Director, Marilyn Rawlings and her staff to incorporate the plan written by the P2 Program. The facility's plan was so successful that the P2 Program was asked to provide written guidelines to the EPA outlining pollution prevention technologies for compliance in vehicle maintenance operations. The plan included: environmental preferable purchasing, pollution prevention technical uses for specific procedures, recycling opportunities and employee training. The EPA published the guidelines in a Sector Notebook of Local Government Operations in January of 1999. P2 Program staff has performed local government training sponsored by the EPA for the past three years all over the United States.

Once the assessment reports are completed, the hope of duplicating the same success at Fleet Management through the entire County's operations can be achieved. Stay tuned for the results!

**The CESQG Business  
Collection Day Schedule  
Sponsored by the Department  
of Solid Waste  
(Disposal Fee Involved)**

**July 25, 2002  
October 24, 2002**

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

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