

# Oregon HazMatters

**3**

*Protecting citizens, their property and the environment from fires and hazardous materials.*

OSEM Mission Statement

**W**

**Summer 2008**

## WE'RE BACK.....

As you may have noticed, the Winter '07 and Spring 08' editions of Oregon HazMatters did not make it to print. We have had a very busy six months with TOPOFF 4, Vernonia Floods and the HazMat Conference. We apologize. We understand communication is very important and we are now back on track and excited to get the Summer '08 edition out. We encourage you to submit ideas for future articles. Have a great summer!

*Mariana Ruiz-Temple*



*Office of State  
Fire Marshal  
resources plan  
for and  
respond to  
TOPOFF 4 on  
October 16, 2007*

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## EMERGENCY PLANNING & RESPONSE SECTION SPOTLIGHT

### NEW HAZMAT TEAM MEMBERS

Technician Weeks 3 & 4  
Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue Training Center  
October 22 - November 2, 2007



**Pictured**, in no particular order: Tyson Botts, Matt Brozovich, Chancy Ferguson, Damon Martin, Justin Riggs, Ryan Ross, Gary West, Instructor Blake Reichel

Technician Weeks 3 & 4  
City of Eugene Training Center  
November 5 -16, 2007



**Back row**, left to right: Instructor Forrest Chambers, Zach DelNero, Instructor Jim Montgomery, Brian Sweet, Shane Castle, Rob Stacy, Jeff Hairston, Jeff Loewenheim  
**Front row**, left to right: Chris Hunt, Jeff Patzke, Tim Blackwell, Dan Giles, Jason Kamperman, Nolan Warkentin

Technician Weeks 3 & 4  
Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue Training Center  
June 9-20, 2008



**Back row**, left to right: James Petty, John Tacy  
**Front row**, left to right: Instructor Greg Fair, Troy Busch, Keith Krafke, Sgt. Jan Kubic, Tim Habeck, Rian Hakala, Instructor Blake Reichel  
**Not Pictured**: Steve Boughey

### HAZMAT TEAM MEMBERS MOVING ON

#### Leonard Damian HM09 ~ Tualatin



After 10 years of service with HM 09, Captain Leonard Damian has chosen to pursue other endeavors within the organization. Captain Damian was assigned to the Tualatin Station where he managed half of the team. Although many of you may not know him personally, he developed the Standard of Cover for our Regional Response Teams and created an environment that fostered new ideas and new methods for mitigation. Captain Damian expanded our interaction with local businesses which has given us the ability to train at the facilities we may respond to. His leadership will be missed, but we wish him well.

### HAZMAT TEAM MEMBERS MOVING ON

#### **Aaron Farance** HM13 ~ Salem

Aaron Farance with the City Of Salem Public Works Dept. has resigned from the HazMat team effective May 1, 2008. Aaron has put in years of service to this team, and was one of the original members of the team. Aaron has seen a lot of changes and has been a very supportive member of the team. When you see Aaron, please pass on your appreciation for his many years of dedicated service to the City's and the State's HazMat teams.



#### **Jim Forquer** HM06 ~ Portland

Jim was selected as the Captain of our team program in June of 2006. Although he was promoted to Battalion Chief this May, we are relieved to know that we can still count on his support for our program. Throughout the two years of his tenure with the team, Jim raised the bar for our technicians. Jim was involved with TOPOFF 4 and worked as chair of the State HazMat Teams Equipment Committee.



#### **Lance Lighty** HM02 ~ Eugene

Lance has been with Eugene Fire & EMS Department for 17 years. He had been a HazMat Team Member for 14 years, with the last 2 years as a Team Leader. Lance is currently the Training Chief (District Chief) for Eugene Fire & EMS Department.



### HAZMAT TEAM MEMBER RETIRES

#### **Steve Frazier** HM10 ~ Hermiston

After 33 years in the fire service, Assistant Chief Steve Frazier retires from Hermiston Fire and Emergency Services (HFES) and HM 10. Steve was part of the first group of career firefighters hired by HFES in 1975. He was one of six hired at that time and is the only one to stay with the Department to retirement. Steve started as a firefighter/EMT and later certified as a paramedic and has moved through the ranks in the Department to retire as the Assistant Chief, a position he held for 20 years.



Steve has served as our TAG/TTAC representative and the team coordinator since 1992.

During his tenure at HFES, Steve has been invaluable in the growth and advancement of the Department. I'm sure I join the rest of those at HFES in saying that his efforts on our behalf and his positive, encouraging attitude will be missed.

#### **Bill Daw** HM06 ~ Portland

Bill Daw recently retired from Portland Fire & Resuce and HM 06 after a career of nearly 30 years. He was a technician with the HazMat team for 20 years, infusing each day with his humor and quick wit. When the incident called for a serious approach however, he was at the top of his game. Bill was a fixture at the station, involving himself with extracurricular activities including union activities and his excellent golf game. He now will be able to spend more time with his wife Kathy and their two children.



## EMERGENCY PLANNING & RESPONSE SECTION SPOTLIGHT

### HAZMAT TEAM MEMBER PROMOTED



**Douglas Baily**  
HM05 ~ Linn/Benton

Douglas Baily was promoted in October to the Plans and Admin Chief for the Corvallis Fire Department. He has been a member of the Corvallis Fire Department for 26 years and HazMat team member since the program began in 1989. Douglas is the HazMat Team Leader for the Corvallis Fire Department.

### OSFM NEW EMPLOYEE

**Krista Fischer**  
Community Planning Coordinator



Krista Fischer joined the OSFM Emergency Planning and Response Community-Right-to-Know unit in November as a Community Planning Coordinator. She will be providing hazardous materials planning and training assistance to emergency response personnel around the state.

A long time friend of the Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal, Krista is a past *Silver Sparky* recipient. Over the years she has served on the Oregon Life Safety Team, Oregon Juvenile Firesetters Advisory Board, Oregon SAFEKIDS Advisory Board, Residential Home Sprinkler Coalition, and the Oregon Council Against Arson, among others.

"It is my good fortune to have a long history working with the staff of the Office of State Fire Marshal at all levels, on a variety of issues," says Fischer, "so this is like coming home to family."

### IN MEMORIAM

**JOHN WELLS**  
1956~2008



The Medford Fire Department is mourning the loss of Firefighters, John R. Wells and Gale C. Gurr, who died in a tragic accident while riding an ATV in the John's Peak area near Jacksonville, OR on April 24, 2008.

Firefighter/EMT-B John R. Wells, 51, started his career in firefighting with the Klamath Falls Fire District #1 in 1983. In 1992 he was hired by the Medford Fire Department as a Firefighter/EMT. John was a HazMat team member of both the HM04 Klamath/Lake and HM08 Medford State Regional HazMat Team during his career with both agencies.

John leaves behind a wife and daughter. He will always be remembered for his sense of humor and larger-than-life personality.

Submissions or ideas for the Fall 2008 HazMatters are due by September 1, 2008.

Anyone interested can submit articles, share information, opinions, safety tips, upcoming trainings, promotions, Technician Weeks 1 - 4 class photos, retirements, memoriam or anything else you feel is of value to our readers.

Please email your submissions or ideas to [jamie.kometz@state.or.us](mailto:jamie.kometz@state.or.us)

## EMERGENCY RESPONSE UNIT PROFILE

### **Mariana Ruiz-Temple**

#### *Emergency Response Unit Manager*

Mariana has worked at OSFM for 13 years. She currently oversees fifteen Regional HazMat Emergency Response Teams, three Incident Management teams two Oregon Urban Search and Rescue teams. Mariana is proud of the work her unit has accomplished over the past year. Mariana says, "We have worked to coordinate and integrate two new response programs into our unit. We conducted two successful Hazmat Teams Conferences, planned and participated in TOPOFF, had our first all hazards IMT deployment, and created two functioning ad-hoc Hazmat committees (communications and equipment). I look forward to the coming years!"

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### **Alan McMahan**

#### *Communication Systems Coordinator*

Alan worked on contract all of 2006 coordinating the upgrade of the 23 FireNET sites. He was hired as a permanent part-time employee in September 2007. Alan oversees and coordinates the maintenance of the Firenet system and frequencies along with three Communications Cache Trailers, Comm 1 (the red Communications Truck), the Incident Support Unit (ISU) and the Communications Unit Leaders, participate in meetings with OWIN, OEM, ARES, provides information and assistance to Fire Service agencies relative to communications, maintain OSFM FCC licensing.

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### **Bruce Armstrong**

#### *HazMat Teams Resource Coordinator*

Bruce came to OSFM on Sept. 2, 2003. His duties range from the procurement and contract-

ing of goods and supplies to arranging for services and repairs to field equipment and apparatus. Bruce also maintains a Certificate for Professional Public Buyer (CPPB). Bruce says "Although the people are great to work with, what I really like about my job is simple... I get to buy the toys for the boys that make noise!"

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[bruce.armstrong@state.or.us](mailto:bruce.armstrong@state.or.us)

### **Tina Toney**

#### *Program Analyst*

Tina started with OSFM on April 1, 2004. In 2006, she was re-classed to a Program Analyst and became part of the Emergency Response and Planning Unit as a Program Coordinator for the state Incident Management Teams and Urban Search and Rescue. Tina is responsible for coordination and project research and gathering program related information. She analyzes program activities and monitors and tracks program expenses and makes recommendations for changes to enhance and maximize the programs performance. Tina says "And I make sure everyone plays nice in the sandbox."

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### **Jamie Kometz**

#### *HazMat Teams Training Coordinator*

Jamie began working for OSFM on January 17, 2005. She provides administrative support and coordination to the unit in implementing and carrying out the activities of the HazMat Teams Training and Cost Recovery programs. Jamie also helps to ensure members of the OSFM HazMat Teams have access to training resources and helps to ensure costs for hazmat incident response are recovered and reimbursed.

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## 2008 OREGON STATE REGIONAL HAZMAT TEAMS CONFERENCE

BY: MARK JOHNSTON, CR2K COMPLIANCE SPECIALIST II

The 2008 Oregon State Regional HazMat Response Teams Conference was held at the Riverhouse Hotel and Convention Center in beautiful Bend Oregon. The weather provided a nice variety as it did last year with sun, showers and a little snow.

In fact we once had all three at the same time.

The conference opened Monday, April 28 with the posting of the colors by the Oregon Fire Service Honor Guard and a moment of silence for two members from the Medford Fire Department who lost their lives just days before. We were then welcomed by State Fire Marshal Nancy Orr, who validated the theme of the conference, "Preparing Today, Taking Charge of Tomorrow". She emphasized that many of today's fire service leaders are approaching their much deserved retirement and the need to mentor and prepare our future leaders is upon us.

The keynote speaker for the opening general session was Michael Callan who is a thirty-five year veteran of the fire service. He is the author of several fire service and hazardous materials training publications, and has received two prestigious awards for his work as a trainer and instructor.

After the opening general session through the end of the conference, a variety of break out training sessions provided an opportunity for everyone to attend each topic. This years training included: Handling Railroad Emergencies, ID Risk Assessment, HazMat ID ~ Sense IR, 10 Step, Handling Tank Truck Emergencies, Handling Chlorine Emergencies, Mass Decon, Managing

Spills Into Waterways, Lessons Learned from TOPOFF 4 and Street Smarts for the HazMat Technician.

On Wednesday evening there was a social hour and awards banquet emceed by Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal Randy Simpson. This year's award recipients were: Scott Brainard of

HM 04, Klamath/Lake with the *So Other's Will Succeed* award; Grant Coffey of HM 06, Portland with the *Behind the Scenes* award; HM 04, Klamath/Lake with the *Call of the Year* award; Stacy Brainard of Klamath Co Fire District No. 1 and Steve Brewer of HM 01, Douglas Co received the *State Fire Marshal Appreciation Award* and Mark Mathews of HM 05, Linn/Benton with the *Oops* award.

*Congratulations to everyone!*



**Back row,** left to right: Grant Coffey, Randy Simpson, Jim Forquer, Scott Brainard, Steve Brewer, Jim Wenzel, Stacy Brainard, Karl Johannsen  
**Front row,** left to right: Lance Lighty, Mark Matthews, Mariana Ruiz-Temple

## 2008 OREGON STATE REGIONAL HAZMAT TEAMS CONFERENCE

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OUR  
VENDORS AND SPONSORS

Additional recognition goes to the planning committee, the instructors and everyone else who worked tirelessly making sure the conference was a success. Of course, the numerous vendors and sponsors should also be recognized



**Planning Committee**

**Back row,** left to right: Grant Coffey, Forrest Chambers, Reed Godfrey, Steve Brewer, Tom Davis

**Front row,** left to right: Mike Lane, Mariana Ruiz-Temple, Stacy Brainard, Jamie Kometz, Lance Lighty, Mark Johnston

**Not Pictured:** Bruce Armstrong, Douglas Baily, Sue Otjen

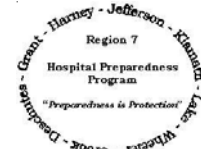
for their generous contributions to the conference.

The conference concluded Thursday, May 1, with a closing general session that included presentations by Ed Marshman of the Federal Bureau of Investigations and the 102<sup>nd</sup> Civil Support Team.

A little more than one hundred people attended this year's conference. Some of the member's of the State Regional Hazardous Materials Response Teams have been involved with the program since it's inception in 1989. Combining that experience and the hours of training available at the 2008 Regional Hazardous Materials Response Teams Conference, we are undoubtedly "... Taking Charge of Tomorrow".

### SEE YOU IN 2010!

Turn to page 8 to view conference photos



A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO  
OFMA FOR THEIR CONTINUED  
SUPPORT OF THE OREGON  
HAZMAT TEAMS CONFERENCE

2008 OREGON STATE REGIONAL HAZMAT TEAMS CONFERENCE PHOTOS



Street Smarts for the HazMat Technician



Handling Railroad Emergencies



Managing Spills Into Waterways



10-Step Class



Vendor Show



Vendor Lunch



2008 OREGON STATE REGIONAL HAZMAT TEAMS CONFERENCE PHOTOS



Mass Decon Class



HazMat ID - SensIR



Handling Tank Truck Emergencies



Closing General Session



Awards Banquet

THANK YOU  
TO OUR OFFICIAL  
CONFERENCE  
PHOTOGRAPHER,  
TRACY FOX



## ASTORIA FIRST TO EXERCISE COMMUNITY CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT BY KRISTA FISCHER, COMMUNITY PLANNING COORDINATOR

Astoria is the first community in Oregon to complete an Office of State Fire Marshal community capability assessment through the exercise phase.

In November, Astoria Fire Department personnel facilitated an exercise simulating a release of anhydrous ammonia from a seafood processing plant. The exercise required a real-time response and included participation from local fire departments, law enforcement agencies, emergency medical services, HazMat Team 11, public works, Astoria hospital, city and county agencies, local businesses and other community organizations.



The exercise addressed issues such as:

- How is the community affected by a hazardous chemical release?
- What resources are needed to respond to this type of incident?
- How do local, county and state agency emergency plans meld or conflict?

“This was a terrific experience for everyone involved,” says Astoria Fire & Rescue Chief Lenard Hansen. “We made significant strides in the communication and coordination between the public and private agencies responding to

such a large scale incident. The skills everyone learned in this exercise will apply not just to a hazardous materials event, but any large scale emergency.”

Exercise participants also used the opportunity to:

- Coordinate the response activities of city and county government agencies, volunteer organizations, and private industry.
- Provide training in a real world setting for all participants.
- Test, evaluate and identify gaps in local emergency plans.
- Enhance emergency coordination and cooperation with multiple jurisdictions and organizations.

Based on evaluation results, participants in the Astoria community capability assessment will modify emergency plans and determine necessary training.

If you are interested in training, planning or conducting a community capability assessment in your community or jurisdiction, contact Office of State Fire Marshal Planning and Training Assistance Program Coordinator Terry Wolfe at 503-934-8219 or email [terry.wolfe@state.or.us](mailto:terry.wolfe@state.or.us).



## **HM02 ~ EUGENE DRILLS WITH INDUSTRY**

**BY LANCE LIGHTY, DISTRICT CHIEF**

HazMat response personnel with the Eugene Fire & EMS Department engage in drills regularly (at least once a year) with Hynix Semiconductor America, a large microchip manufacturing facility employing more than 1,500 people. Hynix employs 60 people certified to the HazMat Technician level. The factory uses and has on-site significant quantities of many hazardous and extremely hazardous materials including hydrofluoric acid, hydrochloric acid, silane, and others. The drills typically involve scenarios where there has been exposure to one or more hazardous substances, and mitigation, evacuation, and decontamination are required. In the drills, Eugene Fire & EMS participates in all phases, especially in decontamination of HazMat and lay personnel (mass decon) and in developing an understanding on the part of Hynix of standard Incident Command System (ICS) protocols and procedures. Both agencies benefit by gaining familiarity with each other's personnel, procedures, and capacities. Potentially the relationship offers an even greater benefit, as Hynix has offered to make its HazMat technicians available in the event of a major HazMat incident anywhere in Eugene's response area. The most recent joint HazMat drill occurred on October 30, 2007.



**HAZMAT SECURITY DEPENDS ON ALL PARTIES IN HAZMAT LOGISTICS CHAIN**  
CHEMICAL SHIPPERS, USERS, TANK CAR OWNERS, RAILROADS ALL HAVE CRITICAL ROLES TO PLAY

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15 /PRNewswire/ – The following is a statement from Edward R. Hamberger, President and CEO of the Association of American Railroads On the Department of Homeland Security's Proposed Rail Hazmat Rules:

Although we have not had the opportunity to review the DHS proposed rules, the nation's major railroads have a demonstrated commitment to security and believe that keeping hazardous materials secure will continue to require active involvement and close cooperation among all the players in the logistics chain. Railroads, for example, do not own the tank cars used to ship highly hazardous chemicals. Tank car owners, chemical shippers, chemical users and railroads each play a critical role in the transportation of hazardous materials.

The nation's railroad industry strongly supports efforts to increase security and was one of the very first to develop, fund and implement an industry-wide security plan after the terrorist attacks on September 11. Unlike other industries, railroads are required by the federal government to carry the hazardous materials that are currently the focus of the Department of Homeland Security. We have worked closely with the DHS, TSA, FRA, and Congress to take concrete steps to bolster security along our nation's railroads, including increased security of information systems, increased inspections of cars, and a DOD-certified 24/7 operations center that links the railroads with the appropriate national intelligence agencies for tracking, information sharing and analysis. This year, railroads will move more freight than ever before, and at the same time will set a record for the safest year in the history of the railroad industry.

### EPA CALLS FOR PARTNERING ON SCHOOL CHEMICAL SAFETY

By ROXANNE SMITH, EPA

What should a school do with outdated chemicals that may have been sitting in the lab cabinet or storage closet for 20 years or more? EPA's Schools Chemical Cleanout Campaign can help schools find partners to give advice in safe chemical removal and management. EPA is challenging companies and other organizations with chemical expertise to be good neighbors and help schools in their community.

"During Children's Health Month, I want to encourage businesses and organizations that have appropriate expertise to reach out to schools in their communities," said Susan Bodine, EPA assistant administrator of EPA's Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response. "Working together, we can help make our schools safer places to learn."



EPA's program helps schools safely manage chemicals and avoid costly, and possibly dangerous, accidental chemical spills. The campaign provides schools with a free Web-based toolkit and connects school officials with local experts and industry leaders in chemical management who can assist in safely removing the chemicals from school property. Program partners can offer a broad range of services to schools, from conducting chemical inventories to training school personnel in responsible chemical management.

Community partners and industry leaders that have recently joined SC3 to help schools safely manage their chemicals include the American Chemical Society, BASF Corporation White Stone site, Employers Mutual Casualty Companies, MKC Enterprises Inc., North American Hazardous Materials Management Association, and Pollution Control Industries.

Across the country, EPA estimates that nearly 33,000 middle and high schools have outdated or improperly stored chemicals onsite in maintenance closets or classrooms that could endanger students, school staff, and surrounding communities. (Washington, D.C. - Oct. 23, 2007)

More information about EPA's Schools Chemical Cleanout Campaign: Contact: Roxanne Smith, (202) 564-4355 / [smith.roxanne@epa.gov](mailto:smith.roxanne@epa.gov) or visit <http://www.epa.gov/sc3/>



## HM01 ~ DOUGLAS CO RESPONDS TO INCIDENT AT OAKLAND HIGH SCHOOL

By MIKE LANE, DIVISION CHIEF ROSEBURG FIRE DEPARTMENT, HM01 TEAM MEMBER

In 2006, Oakland Volunteer Fire Department responded to the local high school for an accident in the school's chemistry lab. The reporting teacher said they had phosphorous out the day before. Upon arrival of the fire department the school had been evacuated. Firefighters contacted HM01, Douglas Co and we deployed two personnel in a technical advisory capacity. Upon further investigation the fire department found that there was 4 grams of phosphorous left out overnight that filled the room with a white smoke/gas.

Phosphorous is a soft waxy solid with a pungent odor similar to garlic. It is shipped/stored as a solid underwater. Phosphorous is highly flammable. Phosphorous often ignites when exposed to air. It gives off white acidic fumes of phosphorous oxide when exposed to air. In this case, the phosphorous was left out exposed to air, emitting phosphorous oxide, and also ignited burning a small area of the counter it was on but self extinguished prior to the arrival of the fire department.

The outcome of this was the school personnel acted appropriately by evacuating the students and calling the fire department. The local fire department used appropriate PPE for recon and called for assistance. We provided some technical information to assist them. They were making the right decisions but it never hurts to ask for help when you're not quite sure. The room was eventually ventilated by positive pressure and the area of the fire was repaired.

..... **PHOSPHORUS 101** .....

By ALEC CARTE, ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALIST

Elemental phosphorus is found most commonly as white (yellow), red and black, with white being the most reactive and toxic.

White phosphorus does not occur naturally. It is found in some rocks. One manufacturing process heats calcium phosphate, from phosphate rock, in a furnace in the presence of carbon and silica. Elemental phosphorus is liberated as a vapor and collected under phosphoric acid.

If white phosphorus is heated to 482° F or exposed to sunlight it may become red phosphorus.



White phosphorus is used in military applications such as incendiary bombs, smoke pots and smoke bombs, and in tracer ammunition.

It is used by industry to produce phosphoric acid and other chemicals that are used in cleaning compounds and fertilizers.

CAS #: 7723-14-0  
NFPA 704  
Health: 3  
Flammability: 3  
Reactivity: 1  
Hazard Class: (4.1) Flammable Solid; (4.2) Spontaneously Combustible Material  
UN #: 1381

◆ FREE TRAINING WORKSHOP ◆



**How to Complete Your**

# Hazardous Substance Information Survey

A free workshop is being held to assist your facility in understanding and completing the Oregon Office of State Fire Marshal's Hazardous Substance Information Survey. This workshop will provide information on the Community-Right-to-Know reporting requirements, how to complete the Hazardous Substance Information Survey, and additional resources available through the Office of State Fire Marshal's Community-Right-to-Know Unit. There will also be a question and answer session at the conclusion of the presentation. Any facility receiving the Hazardous Substance Information Survey is invited. There is no charge to attend this training.

**Please Note:** Space is limited so please call the contact person listed below to make your reservation. Thank you!

**LOCATION:** Forest Grove Fire Dept  
Training Room  
1919 Ash St  
Forest Grove, OR 97116

**DATE:** Aug 21, 2008 (Thursday)

**TIME:** 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

**CONTACT NAME:** Jim Thaler

**CONTACT PHONE:** 503-934-8213

**For information related to this class or if you have questions about the Oregon Community Right to Know program, contact the Hazardous Substance Information Hotline at 503-378-6835.**

### **EPA NEWS RELEASE (REGION 10): EPSON PORTLAND, INC. FACILITY IN HILLSBORO, OREGON JOINS EPA'S PARTNERSHIP, PLEDGES TO REDUCE HAZARDOUS WASTE**

Contact Info: Domenic Calabro, EPA Waste Reduction, (206) 553-6640, calabro.domenic@epa.gov  
Tony Brown, EPA Public Affairs, (206) 553-1203, brown.anthony@epa.gov

(Portland, Oregon - July 17, 2008) Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) marked the entry of Epson Portland, Inc. (EPI) in Hillsboro, Oregon into the National Partnership for Environmental Priorities (NPEP). NPEP is a voluntary program that encourages public and private organizations to form partnerships with EPA to reduce the use or release of 31 priority chemicals beyond what is required in environmental regulations. These chemicals are long-lasting, highly-toxic substances that can harm humans and the environment. EPI is the fifth company in Region 10 (Alaska, Oregon, Idaho and Washington) and only the third company in the State of Oregon to join EPA's NPEP program.

EPI is taking the NPEP Mercury Challenge by taking a pledge to identify mercury in their facility, replace mercury-containing equipment with non-mercury alternatives, and dispose of the material or equipment safely. Their NPEP program goal is to identify and eliminate all mercury-containing thermostats at their facility in Hillsboro, Oregon.

"Using innovative approaches to reduce the use of hazardous chemicals is a good environmental strategy," said Socorro Rodriguez, EPA's Oregon Operations Office Director. "By joining this program, EPI is not only protecting public health and the environment, but showing good economic and business sense."

"We really strive to be a good corporate citizen," said Randal McEvers, Epson Portland's Assistant Corporate Secretary and Director of General Affairs. "Epson is involved in the community and we are continually seeking new ways to recycle materials and reduce our impact on the environment. Participating in the NPEP and accepting the Mercury Challenge is an ideal way for us to extend that commitment."

EPI was the first-ever company to meet the high standards to become a chapter member of EPA's Performance Track program, joining in 2000. EPI is a manufacturing and engineering services affiliate of the Seiko Epson Corporation, headquartered in Japan. At their Hillsboro facility, they manufacture ink and ink cartridges for printers.

The EPA NPEP program's goal is for EPA to work with industry to reduce the use or release of the priority chemicals by four million pounds by 2011. There are over 174 NPEP enrollees nationally.

For more information about Epson Portland, Inc, visit: <http://www.epi.epson.com/>

For more information about NPEP program, visit: <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/hazwaste/minimize/partnership.htm>

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[http://www.govdocs.com/service/subscribe.html?code=USEPA\\_C19](http://www.govdocs.com/service/subscribe.html?code=USEPA_C19)

## OREGON DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY WORKS WITH STATE HAZMAT TEAMS

BY KEN NILES, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

The Oregon Department of Energy's Nuclear Safety and Energy Siting Division has worked with the state HazMat teams since their inception, providing training, equipment and information about radioactive material transport in and through Oregon. While some of those arrangements have changed somewhat over the years (the Fire Marshal's Office is now the primary provider of radiation detection equipment), we remain the principal contact for information and support on radioactive material transport issues.

We will continue to provide in-house, on-request training through Oregon Health Services. We will also continue to provide our annual three day radiological training in Corvallis, conducted by Oregon State University. We continue to modify that training in response to class feedback - especially the hands-on exercises. If you haven't attended in a few years, it's time for you to come back to Corvallis.

In addition to our nuclear responsibilities, the Oregon Department of Energy is also coordinating the state's emergency preparedness planning for the siting of liquefied natural gas terminals proposed in Coos Bay and on the Columbia River. Three facilities are currently in the federal licensing process. While we don't expect all

three to be built, we could have one or more operational terminals by 2012 or so. As we get closer to the potential opening of one of these facilities, we'll begin to work with the teams in those areas to plan and participate in emergency exercises.

Finally, we also have responsibility for ensuring that emergency service agencies have sufficient gasoline and diesel in the event of a petroleum shortage. We won't be able to help you with lower prices in any way, but if there is a shortage, we'll make sure that emergency services are provided for first. We've been working with the county emergency managers during the past few years to identify emergency fueling locations and protocols should we find ourselves with a petroleum shortage.



*Photo caption: Nearly 400 shipments of radioactive "transuranic" waste have been transported from the Hanford nuclear site - through Northeast Oregon - to a disposal site in New Mexico. These shipments will likely continue for the next 15 years or more.*

For information on any of these issues, please contact Ken Niles, Assistant Director, Oregon Department of Energy. 503-378-4906 (office), 503-884-3905 (cell), or [ken.niles@state.or.us](mailto:ken.niles@state.or.us).



## ONLINE GPS COURSE

By ALAN McMAHEN, COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS COORDINATOR

OSFM is offering an online GPS course. The course is primarily focused on the operation of the new GARMIN Map76CSx GPS's the USAR and IMT have. Much of the course will apply to any GPS as long as you have your user manual. Subjects covered include basic operation and orientation, how the GPS system works, how to verify the proper datum and coordinates are being collected. How to set way points, how to track movement, how to download to a computer and display data on topographic maps. Anyone interested in participating is welcome to do so. A certificate of completion will be issued to those who submit all the assignments and successfully pass the final exam. For more information or to enroll contact Alan McMahan at 503-934-8297, [alan.mcmahen@state.or.us](mailto:alan.mcmahen@state.or.us)



## HM02 ~ EUGENE TO CALIBRATE CANBERRA DOSIMETERS By BRUCE ARMSTRONG, TEAMS RESOURCE COORDINATOR

In June of '06, OSFM deployed 90 Canberra UltraRadiac Dosimeters among the 15 Regional Teams – six dosimeters each. Included with the initial shipment were interface cabling, diagnostic and calibration software, and a 'test pig' (a known value, nuclear radiation source material used to test and calibrate to) with the intention of setting up an in-house workstation for the annual service and calibration of these instruments. Meanwhile, phone calls continued to funnel in, either voicing concerns or inquiring on how we're handling the calibrations.

One such conversation was with Mark Koss of HM02 Eugene Fire Department. He called me in July '07 with his findings, and process time requirements to do test/calibrations on the Canberra UltraRadiac Dosimeters. Mark stated it was a relatively simple process.

HM02's goal was to achieve an accurate, and documented calibration in the quickest turn-around time possible, thereby minimizing the time a team is left without their Canberras.

Included in the service will be a visual inspection of each instrument and replacement of the batteries. Depending on work shift schedules, estimated turn-around times for servicing six instruments could be less than a week. Instruments needing services outside of standard calibration and testing will be shipped directly to Canberra for their repair and return shipped to



the Team's doorstep.

I'd like to express my appreciation for Mark's willingness to take on such an arduous task. This is a crucial service that is both needed and required. Thank you all... Mark, Jim and the Eugene Fire Department, HM02, for offering your services. You and your team personify the spirit of "A Team Approach".

## JUST ASKING ...

**BIODIESEL – AN EMERGING INDUSTRY**  
**BY TROY BUZALSKY, DIVISION CHIEF, CANBY FIRE**

With oil prices hovering in the \$120.00-130.00 a gallon range, and fuel prices at the pump hedging over \$3.90 per gallon, there is little doubt, alternative fuels are receiving more attention than ever. In fact, in April 2007 the Oregonian wrote "Forget bridges, brewpubs, and bike paths. If Portland leaders get their way, the *City that Works* will soon be known as the nations capital for biodiesel and other renewable fuels." The article further explained that as of July 2007, the City of Portland became the first city in the U.S. to require a minimum 5% blend of biodiesel for all vehicle diesel fuel sold in the city limits.

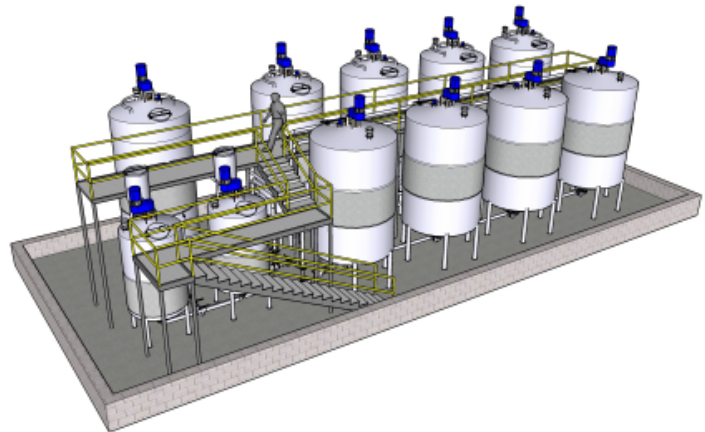
When the word biodiesel is echoed in the fire service there is always a mixed impression of what biodiesel actually is, and what the hazards or concerns are for firefighters, hazardous material response teams, and fire code officials.

Biodiesel is considered an environmentally safe, low polluting fuel that works in most diesel engines. It can be mixed with petroleum diesel fuel and stored anywhere petroleum fuel is stored. It is made from fresh or waste vegetable oils, or animal fats, and is made both commercially as well as by private individuals, for as little as 70 cents per gallon. Biodiesel is relatively safe and easy to process and store when conscientiously approached.

So, what are the concerns the fire service should have with biodiesel? In a nutshell, there are two issues worth discussion in the biodiesel arena: the finished product that we call biodiesel, and the manufacturing of biodiesel. This article will look into both issues.

### **Biodiesel as a finished product:**

Biodiesel has the shipping name fatty acid ester and is unregulated by the DOT. It is amber to yellow in color and has the same relative viscosity as petro-diesel. Its flash point is somewhere between 280 and 320 degrees F, and its vapor density is slightly greater than 1, making it heavier than air. Biodiesel has a specific gravity of .88, and is insoluble with water; however, it is hygroscopic, which means it readily attracts moisture from the atmosphere.



Because of its high flash point, biodiesel is considered a combustible liquid. This means it will not produce flammable vapors at ambient temperatures, making it much more stable than petro-diesel, ethanol, or gasoline. When biodiesel ignites it will burn violently. This has proved evident in several fires involving biodiesel across the country. To extinguish a biodiesel fire it is best to use firefighting foam. AFFF will work, however, alcohol-type concentrate (ATC) foam is considered the best firefighting product, guaranteed to not break down and lose its film layer. Alcohol-type foams also work better during the manufacturing process, which we will discuss next.

## BIODIESEL - AN EMERGING INDUSTRY

During environmental releases, pure biodiesel does not pose a long-term issue, decomposing in 28 days or less. However, because biodiesel can be mixed with petro-diesel, responders need to carefully evaluate what they are really encountering. Are responders dealing with pure biodiesel, which is also referred to as B100 in the industry? Or, is the release a blended product? Biodiesel blends are the most common form of "at the pump" bio-fuel, which means most vehicles running biodiesel are operating with a 5% to 20% biodiesel blend, referred to as B5 or B20 respectively. This differs from facilities that either manufacture or store biodiesel. In these cases, the facilities are typically dealing with pure biodiesel, blended products being the exception.

### Manufacturing Biodiesel:

Whether manufactured in small, garaged-sized, quantities or in large-scale commercial quantities, the manufacturing of biodiesel is very similar. Most of the time biodiesel is manufactured in large batches, this process is called 'batch brewing.' The other less common manufacturing process is called continuous or inline feed. The process starts with a feedstock, typically an animal or vegetable fat, either in its virgin state, or used (waste). The feedstock is heated up, typically anywhere between 120 degrees and 240 degrees Fahrenheit. A catalyst is added to the feedstock and mixed together and a transesterification process occurs, which chemically reorganizes the free fatty acids and carbon molecules into two different products; Biodiesel and Glycerin.



The most common catalyst used to produce biodiesel is sodium methoxide. Sodium Methoxide can either be purchased, usually in the trade name sodium methylate, or it can be manufactured on-site. Typically sodium methoxide is manufactured by mixing methanol and sodium hydroxide (lye). The mixture chemically creates a methoxide-in-methanol mixture, which is highly flammable, poisonous, and reactive with water. Another concern when creating methoxide is the exothermic reaction. When methanol and sodium hydroxide are mixed together, the reaction causes heat. When the mixture heats up, the reaction speeds up, which in turn heats the mixture more, ultimately setting the stage for a potential thermal runaway situation. Although uncommon, thermal runaway is a very real concern. Once the methoxide is fully mixed, it is infused into the heated feedstock.

When responders encounter a biodiesel incident conducting a size up, and getting the facts is the most important element in the decision making process. Knowing how to best fight a biodiesel fire, or how you might handle a biodiesel release differently if it's a blended product verses a pure product, is essential. Also, knowing if the facility is manufacturing biodiesel can help you better understand the associated fire and health concerns responders may encounter. Agency pre-incident planning and utilization of the Oregon Community-Right-to-Know Hazardous Substance Information Program and its informational databases can also prove helpful in knowing some of your area risks. Understanding the idiosyncrasies in the biodiesel industry is essential for positive outcomes, whether were talking about firefighter safety, environmental impact, or even financial responsibilities.

**Office of State Fire Marshal**  
**Oregon State Police**  
**4760 Portland Rd NE**  
**Salem, OR 97305**  
**(503) 373-1540**

**Upcoming Events**

**September:**

19<sup>th</sup> Annual Continuing Challenge  
September 2-5  
<http://www.continuingchallenge.org/>  
Sacramento, CA

**October:**

Teams Training Advisory Committee Quarterly Meeting  
October 7  
Medford, OR

Teams Advisory Group Quarterly Meeting  
October 8  
Medford, OR

Hotzone 2008  
October 16 - 19  
<http://www.hotzone.org/>  
Houston, TX

2008 Emergency Preparedness & Prevention & HazMat Spills Conference  
October 26-29  
<http://2008conference.org/>  
Richmond, VA

**November:**

HazMat Explo  
November 3 - 6  
<http://www.hazmatexplo.org/>  
Las Vegas, NV

NASTTPO Mid-Year Meeting  
November 3-7  
<http://www.nasttpo.org/>  
Las Vegas, NV