



Montana Solid Waste News

Summer 2012 ☀️ ☀️ ☀️ ☀️ ☀️ ☀️

FIRE SEASON IS UPON US!

Kathy O'Hern

Montana is off to a sizzling start this summer. At the writing of this article, July 2, 2012, Montana had the unfortunate distinction of having more acres burning – a staggering 208,000 acres – than any other state.

Who reading this article has had a fire incident at their solid waste facility? Personally, I have been involved in two unfortunate fires at facilities I've managed. It is frightening, and one can't help but asking, "What should I have done differently?"

The answer, in part, is due diligence. Inspect those incoming loads closer, train employees to be on the watch, learn about chemical reactions that may cause a fire. Sometimes fire incidents cannot be avoided, but others are avoidable with proper training for facility personnel.

In September, DEQ is offering a 4-hour course on E-waste and Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) diversion. The HHW portion will be a condensed version of the training provided to collection personnel at HHW events. Chemical reactions will be covered – who knows perhaps this training could prevent a fire at your facility. Check out the "Solid Waste Training" section on page three for more information.



July 2012, recycling plant fire in Summerville, Georgia

And – have a safe, and fire-free, summer!

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SUMMER = INSPECTIONS

You might think that it's simply summer, but here in the Solid Waste Program we know that it's INSPECTION SEASON! Montana Solid Waste Inspectors are out and about. Perhaps Martin, Kathy, or Bob have already visited you. If not, be prepared, one of them will be showing up soon.

What do inspectors look for when they visit your site?

Litter, of course. Yes, we know that the wind blows a lot in Montana, and take this into consideration. If litter is contained inside the facility's fence, it's not usually a problem - unless excessive. But when litter is carried outside the fencing to settle on adjoining property, and is not picked up in a timely manner, this is a violation. However, recent wind conditions are always factored in.

Leaking liquids – perhaps from transfer trailers, landfill cells, ponds, fuel tanks, paint can storage – anywhere. The rules are in place to protect the environment, and we will look for evidence that all liquids are contained. The same is true with stormwater run-on and run-off controls.

Daily cover – according to the rules landfills must be covered with six inches of daily cover. Small landfills may have a problem with this since the cover dirt may be a greater volume than the trash that was deposited that day. Still, it needs to be covered – maybe use an alternative cover such as a tarp system. We can discuss this while on site.

Records may be examined, or at least asked about. Be sure to know where gas/groundwater monitoring, load inspection, Freon removal, etc. records are kept.

And, of course, there are other checklist items, depending upon the type of solid waste facility. But, ultimately, our job is to assist solid waste facilities so that they remain in compliance with the laws. Most Montana solid waste operations are doing an awesome job in following the current set of regulations.

We are always here to help you, with an inspection or two along the way.

RICK'S CORNER

The dog days of summer are here, which means that cool nights and crispy mornings will be on us before we can say, "Where did the summer go!?" During these nice warm days Solid Waste Program staff have been out and about doing inspections and site assessments. We have exceeded the number inspections we typically get done in the summer months. This is due to the diligence of the operators who ensure that their facilities are in compliance with the regulations. As there are very few violations, staff have been able to provide more technical assistance in person rather than by phone or email.

For those of us who don't get out as much, handling numerous phone calls keeps us very busy. The area of greatest concern is the management options for oil field exploration and production (E &P) wastes in the oil boom areas of the state. The SWP has developed a guidance document to deal with E&P waste management. The E&P guidance is posted on the DEQ SWP webpage at the following link:

www.deq.mt.gov/SolidWaste/docs/DisposalRegsOilGasClass2Landfills.pdf. The handling of E&P wastes is an evolving area of solid waste management. As department-approved management practices change, so will the guidance to reflect those changes.

Exploration and production activities in eastern Montana also impact water, waste water management, public water supply, subdivisions, air quality, and other media over which DEQ provides regulatory oversight. To facilitate clear and concise communication on all DEQ matters dealing with oil and gas exploration and production, Steve Kilbreath was hired as the Oil and Gas Coordinator in the Director's Office. Steve can be contacted at 406-444-2872, or by email at spkilbreath@mt.gov.

That is all I have for now. Be safe, and thanks for continuing to do a good job maintaining your facilities.

SOLID WASTE TRAINING

Household Hazardous Waste and E-waste Collections

September 12, 2012, Holiday Inn Bozeman

A variety of toxic household hazardous waste (HHW) and electronic items (E-waste) are hauled to Montana's transfer stations and landfills daily.

Learn how to collect the e-waste generated in your community with tips and tricks from one of the organizers of a successful grassroots effort. You will learn how to build community support, find an e-cycler, recruit volunteers and host an event. Find out what's needed and when – materials and paperwork – and discover what steps are being taken to make the effort self-sustaining.

And how can you and your staff work safely around the chemicals that are brought into your facility? Topics will include:

- Basic chemical properties and recognition
- DOT Hazard Class review and hazard communication issues
- Chemical segregation with emphasis on incompatibility errors
- Demonstration of some chemical reactions
- HazCat testing issues
- HHW recognition training for explosive, radioactive, and potentially unstable chemicals
- Exercise in Hazard Recognition

Attend the last Solid Waste Training of 2012 and learn more about these important issues! Register at <https://app.mt.gov/confreg2/index.html>, click on "start" and "Household Hazardous Waste and E-waste Collections." Follow registration directions.

HHW/E-waste Instructors:

Jackie Couture, Sidney, Montana



Jackie has nineteen years of experience as ARS Safety, Health and Environmental Inspection

Auditor. She manages and implements safety programs that follow all local, state and federal regulations, such as: Chemical Hygiene, Hazardous Communication, Waste Minimization Program, Environmental Management, Radiological, Biological, Industrial Hygiene, Workers Compensation, Occupational Medical Surveillance, Security, and Emergency Action Plan.

In 2005, Jackie was instrumental in organizing the first, community-wide Electronic Waste Recycling event ever held in eastern Montana, and only the second such event held in the state. The "e-raise your e-waste" program is now in its 8th year and has kept more than 100 Tons of e-waste out of local landfills.

Bridget Kelly, PSC Environmental



Bridget's classes are OSHA certified and geared specific to the needs of HHW professionals. She trains in-house PSC HHW staff, as well as, local health department employees, haz-tech subcontractors and public fixed facility HHW personnel throughout the Western United States. Course content includes HHW operations safety, chemical awareness, segregation and Haz-Cat. Demonstrations include hands-on classification of empty containers of hazardous materials received at HHW programs. This class will focus on topics relevant to personnel working with hazardous materials.

SOLID WASTE TRAINING PLANNED FOR 2013

- Asbestos, Meth, and Debris Management at Solid Waste Facilities – Missoula
- Site Operation and Maintenance Elements – Billings
- Coping with Personnel, the Public, and The Generation Gap in the Workplace - Helena
- 24-Hour HAZWOPER - Butte and possible satellite locations

Additional information about these, and other, trainings will be posted on the [SWP Training](#) page.

ECONOMY, ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT CONFERENCE

Holiday Inn, Bozeman, September 12-14, 2012

After the HHW/E-waste session, remain in Bozeman and attend the “Economy, Energy, and Environment Conference” at the Holiday Inn. This conference will present strategies that Montana cities and towns can use to green their communities by using efficient waste management strategies, and improved energy technologies.

Agenda Topics Include:

- Managing Escalating Solid Waste Costs
- Recycling 101 for Communities
- Recycling in State Parks
- Waste Management in Bear Country
- School Composting and Gardening programs
- Scrap Tire Management
- Energy Efficient Outdoor Lighting
- Historic Buildings and Energy Retrofits
- Traffic Signal Upgrades & Synchronization
- ESCOS
- Financing for Sustainable Communities and Energy Efficiency

Details, such as the agenda and registration instructions, are available at <http://www.deq.mt.gov/Recycle/eeeconference.mcp>

JUNE COMPOST WORKSHOP

In June 2012, the Solid Waste Program offered a great two-day Compost Operator Course. Jean Bonhotal, an expert from Cornell University, taught this course. A trip to the Lewis & Clark County Landfill's biosolids compost site provided hands-on training. Several attendees asked Jean if there are additional trainings available; and Jean has provided the following:



Texas Compost Camp
Compost Facility Operator Training

October 1 - 3, 2012

Texas Disposal Systems
Exotic Game Ranch
11508 Carl Road
Buda, TX 78610

- Tour 'state of the art' windrow compost facility
- Learn from the experts:
 - The art and science of composting
 - Managing different feed-stocks
 - Complying with state and local regulations
 - Troubleshooting
 - Marketing your products
 - Hands-on windrow building and monitoring
 - Equipment demonstrations
 - Network with other professional composters

Earn CEU's for TCEQ Solid Waste and Water Treatment Operator's License

<http://recyclingstar.org/news-and-events/compost-camp.html>



Left – Sherrel Rhys, Lewis & Clark County Landfill Manager, discusses the use of a biofilter for odor control.



Above – Jean Bonhotal, Cornell University, getting up close and personal with the compost pile while explaining temperatures and moisture levels.

LENDING LIBRARY

The Solid Waste Program has developed a SAFETY TRAINING DVD Lending Library for licensed facilities. These DVD's were developed by Blue Ridge Services. If you would like to borrow any of the DVDs for your safety meetings, call 406-444-5300 or e-mail wutmbcomments@mt.gov. The DVD will be mailed to you along with a stamped return envelope. The DVDs will be loaned out for two weeks at a time.

Following is a list of the available safety topics:

Working in Dusty Conditions	Leachate Management & Handling
Traffic Safety/Road Design	Landfill Odors: Safety Issues
Working in Extreme Weather – Hot Weather	The Basics of Transfer Station Safety
Preventing Landfill Fires	Equipment Safety – General Issues
Extreme Conditions – Rain Storms – Wet Weather	Bloodborne Pathogens
Methane Gas Safety	Dealing with Unruly Customers
Slope Stability – Excavation Slopes	

QUESTION FROM A SOLID WASTE FACILITY



Question: When is Intermediate Cover required at a Class II landfill?

Answer: According to ARM 17.50.1104: The owner or operator of a Class II landfill unit for which some portion will not receive additional waste **within 90 days** shall place on that portion an **Intermediate Cover of at least one foot of approved cover soil.**

Submit your question to kohern@mt.gov

SOLID WASTE INDUSTRY NEWS

VARIOUS RECENT ACCIDENTS AND INCIDENTS

Waste & Recycling News

Don't Drink and Drive – or Swim and Drive

The driver of a garbage truck in Bar Harbor, Maine, suffered injuries when he drove off a bridge and ended up 8 feet below in a brook. Officials from the fire department, the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, and the Coast Guard responded because the garbage truck was leaking fuel and hydraulic fluid.

Car Flattened by Garbage Truck

In Edmonton, Alberta, a man was awakened by the police last March and told that a garbage truck had "smushed" his car. The owner thought that the police were exaggerating, and that it was merely a fender-bender. But when he saw his car he found that it was literally smushed – like a pancake. The garbage truck driver had taken a turn too fast and rolled his truck onto the parked car.

Man Fires Gun at Garbage Truck

A garbage truck driver in Georgia noticed a brown car following him. The car then pulled up alongside him and the driver fired a single shot into the truck's door. The truck driver was not hurt, and flagged down a nearby police officer. Eventually the police determined that the shooter was a 77-year old man who irritated because he was owed money by the truck driver.

TIPPING FEES VARY ACROSS THE U.S.

Shawn Wright, Waste & Recycling News



If you're looking for an inexpensive place to dump your trash, go to Idaho.

This is not to disparage Idahoans. But with an average landfill tipping fee rate of \$18.43 per ton for municipal solid waste, the state has the cheapest disposal costs in the U.S., especially compared to Massachusetts' average of \$105.40 per ton, according to a Waste & Recycling News survey. WRN asked some of the largest landfills in each state – public and private – how much it costs to dump one ton of municipal solid waste (MSW).

The gamut for disposal costs is wide and varied.

"If a public entity owns a landfill, they are required by law to establish that price, based on cost," said Jeremy O'Brien, director of applied research for the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA). "Whereas, in the private sector, the company will set their price based on competition or lack thereof."

In 2010, the most recent data available, there were 1,908 landfills in the U.S. compared to 7,924 in 1988, according to the U.S. EPA. The western U.S. had the largest number of landfills with 718; the South had 668; the Midwest had 394; and the Northeast had 128. As we've gone to regional landfills, a smaller number of landfills mean less competition," O'Brien said.

Not surprisingly, based on the number of landfills, the top 10 states with the least expensive tipping fees are in the West and South: Idaho, Oregon, Colorado, Utah, Nevada, Nebraska, **Montana**, Louisiana, Arizona and Mississippi.

The most expensive states for landfills are primarily on the East Coast: Delaware, Tennessee, Hawaii, Washington, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Maine and Massachusetts.

A SECOND REPORT PREDICTS TRASH INCREASE

Jim Johnson, Waste & Recycling News

There's another report just out projecting the increase of municipal solid waste generation around the world by 2025, and the numbers remain staggering.



Research by the Worldwatch Institute says that municipal solid waste will double from 1.3 billion tons per year now to 2.6 billion tons by the middle of next decade.

Report author Gary Gardner indicates that increased urbanization and prosperity around the world will help drive the increased waste.

"The share of inorganic materials in the waste stream, including plastics, paper and aluminum, tends to increase as people grow wealthier and move to cities," he said in a statement.

News of the Worldwatch report comes less than two months after the World Bank issued its own findings that indicated municipal solid waste would increase from what it said was 1.43 billion tons per year now to 2.42 billion tons by 2025.

Worldwatch, based in Washington D.C., calls itself an independent research organization that works on environmental, energy and resource issues.

\$11.4 BILLION IN RECYCLABLES LANDFILLED

Shawn Wright, Waste & Recycling News

In 2010, the value of the product packaging landfilled in the U.S. was worth **\$11.4 billion**, according to a recently released report. The study, titled "Unfinished Business: The Case for Extended Producer Responsibility for Post-Consumer Packaging," was published by As You Sow, a nonprofit organization that promotes environmental and social corporate responsibility through shareholder advocacy, coalition building and legal strategies.

"I really want this to be a resource to add to this debate that's beginning to happen on whether and how big consumer packaged goods companies should be taking responsibility for their packaging," said Conrad MacKerron, senior director of As You Sow and the report's author.

The report found that the highest value of discarded waste was PET, with a value of \$2.9 billion landfilled in 2010. The EPA calculated that 2.6 million pounds of PET was discarded in landfills in 2010, which indicates that 23% of the PET generated that year was recycled.

"PET beat aluminum, in terms of the value of packaging," MacKerron said. "It kind of makes sense because I think we're getting about 50% of the aluminum cans, but we're only getting 25% or 30% of the PET bottles. ... Those are kind of the major things that people recycle now."

Discarded aluminum was valued at \$1.4 billion. Paper, including corrugated cardboard, was valued at \$1.3 billion.

HDPE – items such as milk jugs and laundry detergent – was the second most valuable discarded recyclable, worth \$2.8 billion.

In addition to having companies take responsibility for the recyclable material, the report also suggests that the U.S. should improve its waste collection infrastructure to capture a greater amount of post-consumer materials and develop closed-loop systems.

APEX POWERS MORE THAN 10,000 HOMES

Waste & Recycling News

A new landfill gas-to-energy system at Republic Services' Apex landfill in Nevada will provide enough power to operate more than 10,000 homes, the company said.

The system was designed and built by Energenic, which will also operate and maintain the operation. NV Energy has a 20-year deal to buy power from the 12-megawatt facility.



Don't let a good crisis go to waste.

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