



# Montana Solid Waste News

## **SUMMER 2017 ISSUE**



### **WE ARE ON FIRE!**

*By Fred Collins*

Smoke is in the air, the fields and forests are aflame. It has been quite the summer. The weather has been unruly, with temperatures soaring in the 90s for weeks....and Weeks....and WEEKS! As if your jobs weren't strenuous enough, you now get to navigate these scorching temperatures, maintain your machinery and keep your landfills safe from fire. But, MOST IMPORTANTLY, in order to keep up with the daily operations, you have to take care of yourself.

As we push forward and try to keep cool, please be sure to take care of yourselves. Here are some MUSTS when working in these weather conditions:

1. Stay hydrated and take breaks in the shade as often as possible.
2. Wear lightweight, light-colored clothing, as to not absorb sun rays.
3. Use a buddy system when working in excessive heat, to ensure each other's safety.
4. Apply sunscreen to protect your skin.
5. If you begin to feel yourself beginning to overheat, tell your supervisor. Rehydrate and go indoors. KNOW HOW AND WHO TO CALL FOR HELP!

It is SO important to take care of yourselves when working in such extreme conditions. If you keep safe, you'll be safe. No one wants to have an accident because you forgot to drink some water and have a seat in the AC! And let's be honest, who doesn't want to take a break every now and again? Of course, within reason!

Safe operations to you all! Keep an eye out for us inspectors. We will be doing another round of inspections in the next month, so be sure to keep up the good work as we push into August! Make good choices! :)



## ***SPLASH INTO TRASH:***

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# What's the SCOOP?



## SWAC ATTACK!

The next *Solid Waste Advisory Council (SWAC)* meeting will be held **Thursday, October 5, 2017**, in the **DEQ Metcalf Building, Room 111**. Attend and come learn more about what's happening in Montana's solid waste arena. If you have agenda items for the fall meeting, please contact:

**Rick Thompson** at [rithompson@mt.gov](mailto:rithompson@mt.gov), or call **406-444-5345**.

## Solid Waste Safety DVD

### Lending Library Titles

| #     | Title  |
|-------|--|
| LF-01 | The Basics of Landfill Safety                |
| LF-05 | Working in Dusty Conditions                  |
| LF-06 | Traffic Safety/Road Design                   |
| LF-13 | Working in Extreme Weather - Hot Weather     |
| LF-14 | Preventing Landfill Fires                    |
| LF-21 | Extreme Conditions - Rain Storms/Wet Weather |
| LF-41 | Methane Gas Safety                           |
| LF-47 | Slope Stability - Excavation Slopes          |
| LF-55 | Leachate Management & Handling               |
| LF-70 | Landfill Odors: Safety Issues                |
| TS-01 | The Basics of Transfer Station Safety        |
| TS-03 | Equipment Safety - General Issues            |
| TS-06 | Bloodborne Pathogens                         |
| TS-28 | Dealing With Unruly Customers                |

**DVD's** from DEQ's Lending Library are **loaned out for fifteen days**. To borrow a DVD, contact:

**Sara Nelsen** at [snelsen@mt.gov](mailto:snelsen@mt.gov), or call **406-444-3463**.

## SOLID WASTE TRAINING ALERT

### Manager of Landfill Operations (MOLO)

September 11-15, 2017

C'MON Inn  
2775 Expo Pkwy

Missoula, MT 59808

\*25 rooms blocked until August 21, 2017

**\*PRIORITY** to Class II landfill owners/operators that haven't taken the course before

### Landfill Efficiency Training

October 10-11, 2017

Bozeman, MT

**\*MORE INFORMATION TO COME**

### SEPTIC PUMPERS—NAWT Onsite Installer

October 3, 2017

### SEPTIC PUMPERS—NAWT Operation and Maintenance 1

October 4 & 5, 2017

C'MON Inn

6139 E. Valley Center Road

Bozeman, MT 59718

406-587-3555

\*30 rooms blocked @ \$93 plus tax until August 21, 2017

**MORE INFORMATION TO COME!**

For any questions, please call or email

**Fred Collins** at 406-444-9879 or [fcollins2@mt.gov](mailto:fcollins2@mt.gov)!  
Looking forward to seeing you at the trainings!



# DID YOU MISS THE TRAIN...INGS!?

BY FRED COLLINS



The DEQ Solid Waste Section has hosted 5 trainings since the start of 2017.

First, the “24-Hr HAZWOPER” training was held on March 20-22, at the Holiday Inn Express and Suites in Great Falls. Tony Olsen, of Safety and Health Services., instructed the 3-day course. 21 people of the solid waste community were in attendance. All three days were in the classroom, with an exam on the last day.

On March 23 and 24, a “Fire Safety Training” took place at the same hotel in Great Falls. Neal Bolton, of Blue Ridge Services, instructed the course. The first day was in the classroom, and the second day was spent at High Plains Landfill in Great Falls. While onsite, we saw drone demonstrations, both thermal and visual, and a fire extinguisher exercise. There were 18 people in attendance.

The third training was the “Special Wastes” training, which took place at the Sleep Inn in Miles City on May 24 and 25. It was a 2-day training, instructed by various DEQ staff, and Jeff Faycosh, from the Miles City Drug Task Force. Items covered included asbestos regulations, meth cleanup, meth clandestine labs, HHW/CESQG, HHW E-waste events, tire management options, TENORM, oil waste management, how to read an environmental lab report, landfill management of contaminated soils, oilfield waste management, and composting. There were 20 people in attendance.

Next, the “Personnel Management and Accountability” training was held at the Residence Inn and Suites in Billings on May 31 and June 1. This course covered effective leadership skills, effective communication, and improving workplace professionalism and accountability. There were nine people that attended this training. This was a pertinent and valuable training that we will re-administer at a later date.

Finally, the “Compliance Inspection and O&M” training took place in Helena at the Radisson Hotel. This training was conducted last year in Miles City, and it was well received by the attendees. We decided to conduct this training again on the western side of the state for those that weren’t able to make the trek to Miles City last year. The first day was in the classroom, and the second day, we went to the Helena Transfer Station for a tour, and then we all conducted a compliance inspection at the Lewis & Clark County Landfill to finish up the training. There were 25 people in attendance.

DEQ’s Solid Waste Section plans on hosting trainings this Fall 2017. Once a schedule has been established, flyers and notifications will be distributed. If you have inquiry on trainings you want to attend, please notify Fred Collins by email at [fcollins2@mt.gov](mailto:fcollins2@mt.gov).







# REAL RECYCLING



## MARKET WATCH!



*Red Flags for Mixed Paper and Plastic*



China's intended import ban on certain recycling materials was announced to the World Trade Organization (WTO) on July 18<sup>th</sup>. China's government said it was taking the action to protect public health and the environment.

China intends to ban mixed paper, and certain plastic types. The Institute for Scrap Recycling Industries (ISRI) says the plastic scrap grades covered by the proposed ban include "polymers of ethylene, styrene, vinyl chloride and PET [polyethylene terephthalate]." The ban will take effect by the end of 2017. This ban on imports of scrap commodities into China will result in losses of 'tens of thousands of jobs and closure of many recycling businesses throughout the United States', according to Robin Wiener, president of the US ISRI. China imported 7.3 million tons of plastic scrap and 27 million tons of recovered paper last year. Mixed paper accounts for 30 percent of recovered paper totals going to China.

ISRI immediately relayed its concerns to the U.S. Trade Representative and the U.S. Department of Commerce, and briefed U.S. officials ahead of the July 19 U.S. China Comprehensive Economic Dialogue in Washington.

The association said one-third of the scrap recycled in the United States is exported, with China being the largest market. That includes 1.42 million tons (3.1 billion pounds) of scrap plastics, worth an estimated \$495 million, out of \$5.6 billion in scrap commodities exported from the United States to China last year, it said.

The Chinese government said that it had found large amounts of "dirty wastes or even hazardous wastes" mixed with imports that can be used as raw materials. These contaminants represented a threat to China's environmental interests and the health of the people. Accordingly, the country was acting to "urgently adjust the imported solid wastes list" and to forbid the import of solid wastes that, in China's view, are "highly polluted".



## OREO'S REFINING SUCCESSFUL E-WASTE EVENT

By Dusti Johnson



Since its founding, Oreo's Refining participated in a very successful e-waste event in Sanders County, collecting 8,261 pounds of e-waste. In lieu of paying its standard penny per pound rate for e-waste material, Oreo's Refining made a donation to the Thompson Falls Food Bank. Oreo's contribution is a first of its kind to contribute to a community contribution for the Sanders County e-waste event. Oreo's Refining has saved almost 10,000 pounds of e-waste from the landfill in its few short months. Shelly Mitchell's passion for conservation extends to Oreo's Refining's operations, among these goal's being 100% fossil fuel free within 10 years in its recycling. Mitchell's ultimate goal is to stop the illegal exportation of Montana's e-waste to underdeveloped countries. She'd also like to keep e-waste recycling revenue here in Montana and continue to donate a penny a pound for e-waste to local food banks.



# Mary's Musings

*Oh my word! It's been a very busy summer and it's almost over with. Where does the time go? I remember very clearly one summer as a child complaining to my mom that summer was just dragging on; apparently, I was bored and ready to go back to school! I recall her telling me, "Just wait until you're older dear, it'll go by fast." Boy howdy, was she right! As my daughter begrudgingly prepares for another school year to start, I'm looking forward to getting back into the routine again. The routine of lunch preparations, school activities, and homework (hers)!*

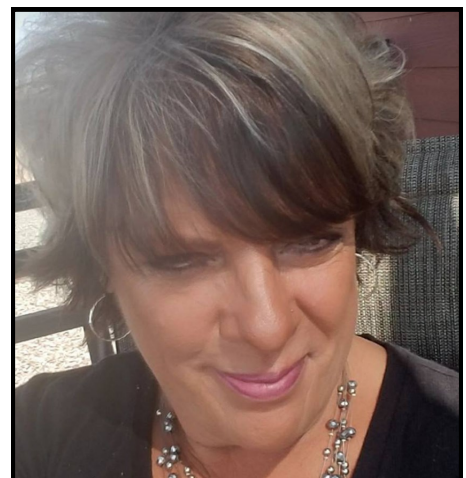
*Speaking of routines, how are the routines at your facility? This past spring, we conducted an O&M and Compliance Inspection training here in Helena that included a discussion of the rules and how they are implemented at solid waste facilities. Some attendees were glad to find out that there really is a reason your boss tells you to do things a certain way. The training was well received and we are happy to report that some of the suggestions we made have been implemented at several landfills – great work!*

*Are you performing routine compliance or engineering inspections at your facility? For those facilities that are, we've noticed. If you aren't performing weekly, monthly, quarterly, or even annual inspections of the various areas of your site, please consider doing so. They aren't required, but have helped facility operators better understand the importance of what they do and why they are doing it. Driving the compactor back and forth every day or managing incoming waste loads at the gate can become so routine that sometimes we miss opportunities to identify things that we can do better. I have to admit that even some of the routine things in our jobs here get boring; we do them without really thinking, but those 'routine' tasks are still important. It's good to look at things from a different perspective – that's how we get better! So, if you're interested, we have developed some self-inspection checklists that you might want to consider using. If you'd like a copy of those, just send me an email and I'll get them to you. You can modify them to fit your facility needs.*

*Thank you all for the work that you do! You perform a very important service for the citizens of this great state that oftentimes can be unappreciated or not even recognized as a valuable service. We in the Solid Waste Program understand what it takes to do what you do :) And thank you for that! Enjoy what is left of the summer.*

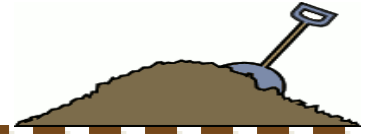
*Hunting season is just around the corner. See you all soon!*

*Mary Louise*





# The ComPOST



## Calgary home to biggest-of-its-kind composting facility in Canada

By Carolyn Kury de Castillo

Construction of the 521,000-square-foot Calgary composting facility started in fall 2015 at a cost of \$143 million and now it's ready to take on all of Calgary's food and yard waste from single-family homes.

"The pilot that we operated for the last five years has shown us that there is great support for this program," said Philippa Wagner, green cart implementation leader with the City of Calgary. "There has been 89 percent support from those residents and we've been able to reduce the waste to landfill by about half."

The facility is located near Stoney Trail south of 114 Ave. S.E. On Monday, Wagner led a tour of the facility, which is the size of about eight football fields. It takes about 60 days to turn food and yard waste from the green cart program into compost.

First, trucks drop off material where it is shredded to a proper size. Then the material is loaded inside one of the 18 massive composting vessels, where it cycles through a warm-up, pasteurization, active composting and cool-down.

The difference from a backyard composter is the heat. The material must maintain a temperature of at least 55 C (131 F) for three days to kill any harmful bacteria found in meat and pet waste.

The material also goes through a screening process, during which non-compostable items like plastics and rocks are removed.

After that, the compost is ready to be sold to local farms and landscapers to help offset some of the cost of running the program. But most of the price of composting will come from the \$6.50 green cart monthly fee.

"We also will have a portion, about five percent, of that compost returned to the city and that compost will be donated to community gardens," Wagner said. "And it will also be given away to residents for free starting in 2018."

The city hopes to divert half of the amount of waste that would have gone into a landfill once composting becomes the new normal behaviour.

"Like recycling: everybody recycles and so people will learn to change their habits in their kitchen and collect the food and yard waste separately."

So far, the facility is only meant to handle Calgary's compost. Once it's up and running, the city will assess if it will be possible to take on more from surrounding communities.

The pilot program material was taken to a private facility near Strathmore.

The green cart program [starts this week in southwest Calgary](#) and expands to northwest Calgary in mid-August. Northeast Calgary will get green carts in September 2017 and the southeast will be on board by October.





# **EPA Section 608 Refrigerant Management Regulations**

***As related to Montana***

***Solid Waste Management Facilities***

## **What are the Section 608 Refrigerant Management Regulations?**

**Starting January 1, 2018, appliance disposal and recycling facilities will need to comply with the revised provisions.**

Section 608 of the Clean Air Act prohibits the knowing release of refrigerant during the maintenance, service, repair, or disposal of air-conditioning and refrigeration equipment. The EPA requires proper refrigerant management practices by appliance disposal facilities, owners and operators of refrigeration and air conditioning systems, technicians, reclaimers, and others.

## **Section 608 Technician Certification**

EPA regulations (40 CFR Part 82, Subpart F) under Section 608 of the Clean Air Act require that technicians who maintain, service, repair, or dispose of equipment that could release ozone depleting refrigerants into the atmosphere must be certified. Starting on January 1, 2018, this requirement will also apply to appliances containing most substitute refrigerants, including Hydrofluorocarbons.

Technicians are required to pass an EPA-approved test to earn Section 608 Technician Certification. The tests are specific to the type of equipment the technician seeks to work on. Tests must be administered by an EPA-approved certifying organization. Section 608 Technician Certification credentials do not expire.

### **EPA Fact sheet link:**

<https://www.epa.gov/section608/section-608-technician-certification>

## **What Appliance Disposal and Recycling Facilities Need to Know:**

Starting January 1, 2018, appliance disposal and recycling facilities will need to comply with the revised provisions. Appliance disposal and recycling facilities must:

- Before disposal of small appliances (e.g., refrigerators and window air conditioners),
- Recover 80% or 90% of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) or substitute refrigerant from the appliance using certified recovery and/or recycling equipment; or
- Evacuate the appliance to 4 inches of mercury vacuum; or verify with a signed statement or contract that ODS or substitute refrigerant was previously recovered according to the safe disposal requirements.

### **EPA Fact sheet link:**

[https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-09/documents/608\\_fact\\_sheet\\_appliance\\_disposal\\_1.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-09/documents/608_fact_sheet_appliance_disposal_1.pdf)



# ***EPA Section 608 Refrigerant Management Regulations***

***...continued***

## **Disposal of Equipment that Enters the Waste Stream with the Refrigerant Charge Intact**

Equipment that typically enters the waste stream with its refrigerant charge intact (e.g., Motor Vehicle Air Conditioners (MVACs), household refrigerators and freezers, and window unit air conditioners) are subject to special safe disposal requirements:

The final person in the disposal chain (such as a scrap metal recycler or landfill owner) is responsible for ensuring that refrigerant is recovered from equipment before its final disposal.

If the final person in the disposal chain accepts an appliance that no longer holds a refrigerant charge, that person is responsible for maintaining a signed statement from the person who dropped off the appliance. The signed statement must include the name and address of the person who recovered the refrigerant, and the date that the refrigerant was recovered. Alternatively, this could be a copy of a contract stating that the refrigerant will be removed prior to delivery.

EPA does not mandate a sticker as a form of verification that the refrigerant has been removed prior to disposal. Such stickers do not relieve the final disposer of their responsibility to recover any remaining refrigerant in the appliance, unless the sticker consists of a signed statement that includes the name and address of the person who recovered the refrigerant, and the date that the refrigerant was recovered.

**Individuals removing refrigerant from small appliances, MVACs, and MVAC-like air conditioners, when preparing them for disposal, are not required to be certified technicians. However, the equipment used to recover refrigerant from appliances prior to their final disposal must meet the same performance standards as refrigerant recovery equipment used for servicing.**

Note that starting January 1, 2018, persons involved in the final disposal of appliances no longer need to certify to their EPA Regional Office that they have obtained and are properly using EPA-certified refrigerant recovery equipment.

Source: <https://www.epa.gov/section608/section-608-refrigerant-management-regulations>





# TRASH TALK

G R L J E F H S X N B E L R S  
P R O E N N T S O X T N A E A  
G M O T A Y A I A S F F N T F  
G R U U C C T H A R Z O D T E  
N R A D N A H W T R T R F I T  
I X C D L D P A W E S C I L Y  
L V S O E E W M T T M E L K I  
C Q I U S R G A O E S M L V Y  
Y V Q U D A L R T C R E V O C  
C H F O R I M Z C E W N U F E  
E E Z B N W Q Q H J R T F C R  
R E A E A N O I T C E P S N I  
R G R T R E G U L A T E D A F  
E H E L A C S T S O P M O C J  
T R U C K C W Q R U N O F F E

- COMPACTOR
- DOZER
- FIRE
- GROUNDWATER
- LEACHATE
- METHANE
- REGULATED
- SCALE
- TRUCK
- COMPOST
- DUMP
- GARBAGE
- INSPECTION
- LINER
- RECYCLING
- RUNOFF
- STORMWATER
- VIOLATION
- COVER
- ENFORCEMENT
- GRADER
- LANDFILL
- LITTER
- REFUSE
- SAFETY
- TRASH
- WASTE

Do your inspection of this word search! Once you complete your search, send this back to the Solid Waste Program (address on page 1). **The FIRST 10** word searches returned to DEQ will receive a prize (prizes from the last newsletter are on their way)! **GOOD LUCK!**

**Newsletter Contact: Fred Collins**  
**Send any submissions or requests to:**  
**fcollins2@mt.gov OR call 406-444-9879**

