

# H<sub>2</sub>O Line

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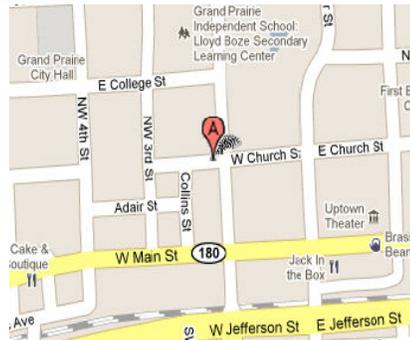
## Environmental Compliance Meeting

The next Environmental Compliance meeting will be **Wednesday, February 15, 2012** from 9:30 - 11:00 am at the Environmental Services Department office located in the **Development Center at 206 W. Church Street**. The Development Center is located across from City Hall at the intersection of Church and NW 2<sup>nd</sup> St. Take either of the outside staircases located on the east side of the building to the second floor. An elevator is

also available.

The meeting topic will be *Complying with the New 5 Year General Permit*. City of Grand Prairie Staff will discuss what your facility needs to do to remain compliant with the recently reissued Multi-Sector General Permit.

To register or for more information, contact Cheri Hebison at (972) 237-8070 or



[chebison@gptx.org](mailto:chebison@gptx.org) or fax your registration form to (972) 237-8228.

## Electronic Waste Management

Electronic waste or e-waste is one of the fastest growing segments of our nation's waste stream. According to the Consumer Electronics Association (CEA), Americans now own approximately 24 electronic products per household.

Discarded e-waste usually ends up in landfills or is exported to developing countries for disposal. In developing countries, the e-waste is dismantled to recover precious metals, often unsafely, posing significant risk to human health and the environment. The Environmental Protection Agency is

collaborating with various governments and local, regional, and international organizations to address this problem in addition to its domestic efforts to improve the management of discarded electronics.

Currently there is lack of data on how much e-waste is being shipped from the United States to other countries. Much of the e-waste generated in the United States and Europe is directed to countries in West Africa and Asia that lack the capacity to safely manage them. This past October, the EPA collaborated with the United

Nations University's Solving the E-Waste Problem (StEP) initiative to meet with international experts, Ethiopian officials and NGOs to help the Ethiopian government deal with the e-waste problem. The EPA is also working with China's Ministry of Environmental Protection for the sustainable management of electronic waste.

The EPA has fostered multi-lateral cooperation between several international organizations to seek sustainable solutions to the global e-waste problem.

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# Magnablend Chemical Plant Explosion

On October 3, 2011, an explosion sparked as workers mixed chemicals at a Magnablend chemical plant in Waxahachie, Texas, just south of Dallas.



The massive fire shot plumes of black smoke and bright orange flames into the sky, forcing nearby schools and residents to evacuate to avoid possible exposure to dangerous gases.

Immediate air quality testing was performed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) both at ground level and by aircraft. The results did not show significant levels that would cause health concerns. Air and water quality monitoring continued around the clock for more than seven weeks. The results consistently showed that there were no significant levels of toxic substances in either the air or the water that would impact the

disposal companies and municipalities. In addition, the company removed 1,000 tons of solid waste and 600 tons of metal for disposal or recycling. These efforts have begun to mitigate the unpleasant odors caused by biodegradation and from sulfur-containing materials handled at the plant site.

The company says the cause of the fire began in connection with an unanticipated release of steam and hydrogen from one

community.

In a detailed report issued by Magnablend, approximately 1.3 million gallons of waste water has been disposed of by licensed waste

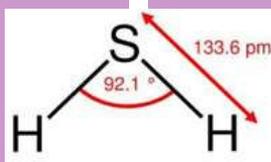
of the tanks at the facility. The tank in question was manufacturing a water-treatment product that had been produced at the plant without incident in 16 batches of 500 gallons each over a period of time beginning in August 2011. Following the successful preparation of those 500-gallon batches, the company increased the batch size to 2,500 gallons, but the larger batch reacted with more volatility.

*The company says the cause of the fire began in connection with an unanticipated release of steam and hydrogen from one of the tanks at the facility.*

All efforts to monitor and remediate water, air, and soil have been done in direct coordination with representatives of the EPA, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, and the City of Waxahachie. Additionally, the company has engaged the services of numerous private companies for their respective areas of expertise in environmental monitoring and remediation.

# Hydrogen Sulfide: Lifting of Administrative Stay

On December 1 1993, hydrogen sulfide was added to the Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) list of toxic chemicals. However in August of 1994, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued an Administrative Stay of the reporting requirements based on concerns voiced by members of the regulated community. Because of this reporting stay, facilities have not been required to file annual TRI reports for hydrogen sulfide.



allowed for a period of public comment. In November 2011, the administrative stay was lifted. Facilities are now required to submit TRI reports for hydrogen sulfide for the reporting year 2012 by July 1, 2013, under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-know Act (EPCRA) section 313 reporting requirements.

For the purpose of reporting, hydrogen sulfide is subject to the standard activity threshold of 25,000 pounds for manufacturing and processing and 10,000 pounds for otherwise use. It is subject to reporting in all forms in which it is manufactured, processed or

otherwise used but is exempt in a concentration lower than 1%.



# Texas Trouble

An engine parts salvage and scrap metal in Dallas County was assessed \$3,150 for failing to obtain storm water authorization prior to operation.

A metal cutting service in Ector County was assessed \$1,050 for failing to prevent the discharge of industrial wastewater in a manner as to not create a nuisance.

An auto transmission repair shop in Tarrant County was assessed \$2,500 for failure to monitor the underground storage tanks for releases at the frequency of at least once a month.

A paint and body shop in Dallas County was assessed \$6,300 for failing to obtain air authorization prior to operating the plant.

A waste container cleaning and repair facility in Harris County was assessed \$19,800 for failing to obtain a permit for the storage and processing of industrial wastes, by failing to keep records of all hazardous and industrial solid waste activities, for failing to submit and provide accurate Annual Waste Summaries, by failing to update the facility's Notice of Registration, by failing to submit documentation demonstrating proper closure of waste management units, failing to conduct hazardous waste determinations and clas-

sifications, and by failing to properly complete all manifests for the shipment of hazardous and Class 1 wastes.

An unauthorized municipal solid waste disposal site in Tom Green County was assessed \$13,440 for failing to maintain records as a scrap tire transporter using a manifest system and retain copies of manifest for a period of at least three years, failing to report annually regarding the transport of scrap tires and by failing to prevent unauthorized disposal of municipal solid waste.

A waste recycler in Tarrant County was assessed \$2,250 for failing to complete a Notice of Intent to operate a recycling facility prior to commencement of new operations, failing to provide a closure cost estimate for combustible materials stored outdoors at least 90 days prior to the receipt of materials, and failing to prevent acceptance of 12 cubic yards of recyclable waste containing greater than 10% incidental nonrecyclable waste.

A resin manufacturer in Harris County was assessed



\$17,980 for failing to comply with regulations for tanks storing or treating hazardous waste, failing to maintain a five year pollution prevention plan on-site and failing to provide an executive summary, failing to submit a manifest exception report within 45 days of the date that waste was accepted by an initial transporter, and failing to label each container with the words "hazardous waste."

*A waste container cleaning and repair facility in Harris County was assessed \$19,800 for failing to obtain a permit for the storage and processing of industrial wastes...*



## Compliance Dates

### March 1

- Tier II report to TDSHS, LEPC, and Fire Department Annual Waste Summary (via STEERS) to TCEQ

### March 31

- Storm Water Benchmark Monitoring results to TCEQ
- Storm Water DMRs go into your SWP3 if no effluent limit violation or to TCEQ if violation occurred
- Annual Air Emission Inventory Update report to TCEQ
- Greenhouse Gas Report to EPA



## City of Grand Prairie

*Environmental Services Department  
Environmental Quality Division  
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Grand Prairie TX 75050  
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*This newsletter is a publication of:  
Environmental Services Department,  
Environmental Quality Division  
Submit your comments/suggestions  
to:*

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## Laboratory Safety

Hazardous chemicals present physical and/or health threats to workers in clinical, industrial, and academic laboratories. Occupational Safety & Health Administration's (OSHA) Occupational Exposure to Hazardous Chemicals in Laboratories standard (29 CFR 1910.1450) covers laboratories where chemical manipulation occurs and where workers may potentially be exposed to these chemicals. Laboratory use is characterized by use of multiple chemicals and procedures where small quantities are used on a non-production basis.

OSHA's Laboratory Standard applies to employers engaged in:

- Chemical manipulations carried out on a laboratory scale in which containers used for reactions, transfers, and other handling is designed to be handled by one person.
- Multiple procedures or chemicals are used.
- Procedures involved are not part of a production process.
- Protective laboratory practices and equipment are available and in com-



**Lab  
Safety**

mon use to minimize worker exposures.

If a laboratory standard applies, employers must develop a Chemical Hygiene Plan (CHP). Primary elements of a CHP include:

- Minimizing exposure to chemicals by establishing standard operating procedures, requirements for personal protective equipment, engineering controls, and waste disposal procedures.
- Monitoring work environments.
- Procedures to obtain medical care for work related exposures.

### Registration Form

**Environmental Compliance Meeting  
Environmental Services Department  
City of Grand Prairie Development Center  
206 W. Church, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**

***Complying with the New 5 Year General Permit***

**February 15, 2012**

**9:30 to 11:00 a.m.**

**(Continental Breakfast Provided)**

**Company Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Attendees:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE RETURN BY MAIL OR FAX TO:**

**Environmental Services Department**

**P.O. Box 534045**

**Grand Prairie, TX 75053-4045**

**Fax to: 972.237.8228**

**Email: [CHebison@gptx.org](mailto:CHebison@gptx.org)**

In order to facilitate compliance with the laboratory standard, OSHA has developed training videos. The following are the broad range of topics available in DVD format:

Orientation to Laboratory Safety, Safety Showers and Eye Washes, Flammables and Explosives, Formaldehyde Standard, Electrical Safety in Laboratories, Ergonomics, MSDS, Laboratory Hoods, Preventing Contamination, Safe Handling of Glassware, Planning for Emergencies, and Compressed Gas Cylinders.

For more information, visit <http://www.osha-safety-training.net/component/content/article/11-osha-training-videos/88>.