

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

Fall 2013  
Volume 7, Issue 4

**We're online!!!**  
[www.gptx.org/  
EnvironmentalQuality](http://www.gptx.org/EnvironmentalQuality)



**Grand Prairie**  
T E X A S

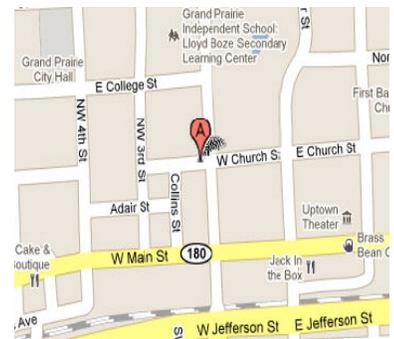
**Creating raving fans by  
delivering world class  
service.**

## Annual Awards Luncheon

On October 10, 2013, Environmental Quality staff will be holding our Annual Awards Luncheon to recognize Grand Prairie permitted industries achieving 100% compliance and pollution prevention award winners. Awards will also be given to the Clean Air Action Day Challenge winners. The luncheon will be held from 11:30 am – 1:00 pm at the Environmental

Service 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 2nd St. Take either of the outside staircases located on the east side of the building to the second floor. An elevator is also available.

Please complete the attached registration form and return it by fax to 972-237-8228 or email to [chebison@gptx.org](mailto:chebison@gptx.org).



## Clean Air Action Winners

This Clean Air Action Day we asked our industries to help us celebrate by educating employees and asking them to make a pledge on the Air North Texas website. Thank you to our indus-

tries that participated and if you did not, Clean Air Action Day is the first Friday of next summer too! The winners of our Clean Air Action Challenge 2013 were Lockheed Martin Missiles &

Fire Control, Bell Helicopter, and Pratt & Whitney. Thank you for your efforts! Learn how you can be a part of the campaign at [www.airnorthtexas.org](http://www.airnorthtexas.org).

## Congratulations on 100% Compliance

Congratulations to the following Grand Prairie industries for achieving 100% compliance during the 2012-2013 pretreatment year. These companies are recognized for compliance with effluent limits, reporting requirements, storm water discharge permit regulations, and cross connection requirements. Your commitment is appreciated!

- American Animal Health
- American Eurocopter
- Control Products Corporation
- DeLaval Manufacturing
- International Paper – Box Plant
- Lockheed Martin Missiles & Fire Control – SW 14th Street Facility
- Neos Therapeutics
- Siemens Industry, Inc.
- Texas Aircraft Milling
- Texas General Hospital
- Turbomeca-USA & Microturbo, Inc.



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# Preparing for Disasters in the Workplace

Natural or manmade disasters can strike at any moment, anywhere. From tornadoes and flash floods to fires and shootings, your business needs to have an emergency disaster plan in place. Keep in mind, some businesses must follow federal guidelines.



## Emergency Kits

Before disaster strikes, prepare a survival kit. A basic kit includes enough water for each employee to have 1 gallon per day, non-perishable foods, flashlights, a battery-powered radio and a first aid kit.

## Evacuation Plans

Make all employees aware of the exits closest to their work areas. Keep in mind, however, that some exits may be inaccessible or unusable. If leaving the building during a disaster becomes necessary, create an evacuation plan, including how to exit the building from

several routes and where the staff should meet once outside the building. Choose a nearby landmark, such as the intersection of two roads, to gather and call for help. Evacuation plans can be posted on doors throughout the business, in highly visible, accessible areas.

## Conduct Drills

Put your planning to a test. Let employees know you will hold several drills. Conduct the drills during various hours of the day. These trial runs will let management know where weaknesses exist in the plan so improvements can be made as needed.

**“If you fail to plan, you are planning to fail!”**

**-Benjamin Franklin**



# Food Waste Challenge

Did you know that a staggering 1.3 billion tons of food or 32% of what is grown is wasted every year throughout the world? The US being the most productive and abundant food supply source on earth accounts for a substantial portion of this waste.

The environmental footprint of food waste starts at agricultural production using extensive land and water resources and extends to food processing, transportation, retail, preparation and/or disposal, depending on where along the way

food is discarded. Looking at one component along this chain, the disposal of processed food, the USEPA calculates that food is the largest component of municipal solid waste going to landfills, nearly 20% by weight, and that landfills are the third largest source of methane accounting for nearly 16% of methane emissions. Methane is a greenhouse gas 21 times



more potent than carbon dioxide.

Recognizing these facts, on June 4, 2013 in advance of World Environment Day, the USDA in collaboration with USEPA launched the US Food Waste Challenge with commitments to reduce, recover, and recycle food waste from various private sector partners. Lending more credence to this noble task, Pope

Francis has turned his attention to reversing the culture of waste, specifically food waste in his traditional Easter message. All industries including the 31 food manufacturing industries in Grand Prairie are encouraged to make this commitment. This should also be a reminder to each one of us to reduce food waste in our homes and other eating places. For more information, please follow the links in

[www.usda.gov/oce/](http://www.usda.gov/oce/).

## Texas Trouble

A sandblasting and painting facility in Brazoria County was assessed \$4,087 for failing to obtain authorization for the sand storage silo and a surface coating booth, by failing to ensure that dry abrasive cleaning operations were conducted in an enclosed facility, and failing to maintain a copy of each Permit by Rule (PBR) and the applicable general conditions under which the plant is operating.

A sludge transporter from Bexar County was assessed \$938 for failing to prevent the unauthorized discharge of wastewater into or adjacent to water in the state.

A dry blast cleaning and tank interior coating business was assessed \$3,375 for failing to obtain authorization for air emissions prior to conducting outside dry abrasive blasting operations and non-enclosed tank interior coating.

A medical facility with an emergency generator

in Tarrant County was assessed \$3,893 for failing to provide release detection for the suction piping associated with the underground storage tank system.

A railcar fabrication and repair plant in Tarrant County was assessed \$2,438 for failing to produce and maintain a monthly particulate matter emissions report for the abrasive blasting operations and by failing to obtain a Federal Operating Permit.

An agricultural products manufacturing plant in Bell County was assessed \$15,375 for various industrial waste violations including failing to identify and classify all industrial wastes generated at the facility, failure to ensure that each container used to store hazardous waste is labeled clearly with the words "Hazardous Waste" and failing to keep hazardous waste containers closed ex-



cept when adding or removing waste.

A chemical manufacturer in Harris County was assessed \$47,700 for failing to prevent the disposal of Class 1 waste at an unauthorized facility and by failing to correctly manifest Class 1 waste utilizing a correctly completed Uniform Hazardous Waste Manifest.

An oil and gas well site in Brazoria County was assessed \$265,562 for failing to route flashed gases from the site to a vapor recovery system or a control device, failing to obtain a federal operating permit, and by failing to obtain authorization to construct and operate a source of air emissions.

A lead battery servicing business in Harris County was assessed \$10,500 for failing to prevent the unauthorized discharge of municipal, industrial solid, and hazardous waste.

**“A chemical manufacturer in Harris County was assessed \$47,700...”**

### 2013

### Drought Update

Though there has been some rain, the persistent heat and evaporation rates have continued to keep Texas in a statewide drought. 87% of the state is in a state of drought. Statewide, reservoir levels are at 64% of full capacity. According to the Clean Water Fund, Texas is in the midst of an unprecedented water crisis, and municipal water demand is projected to surpass agricultural and all other demand by 2060. Outdoor lawn watering is the leading driver of municipal demand.

## Finding New Markets For Used Scrap Tires

In 1990, an estimated 11% of scrap tires generated in the U.S. found a productive end-use. By 2007, that percentage went to 89.3%. Since 2007, however, there has been a 40% drop in the used tire market.

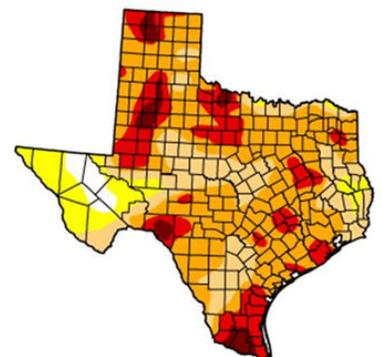
The decrease



was due to several factors: the cement industry stopped using tire derived fuels in their kilns; schools stopped spending money on new athletic fields; and cities stopped building new roads using rubberized asphalt. Furthermore, the

overall sale of new tires decreased, which led to a decrease in availability of scrap tires.

In the last few years, new innovations and technologies are taking advantage of used scrap tires. Many states are now using absorptive sound barrier structures



August 13, 2013

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## City of Grand Prairie

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This newsletter is a publication of:  
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## Used Scrap Tires

*(Continued from page 3)*

that soak up sound to reduce highway noise. It is called the "Whisper Wall" which is a mixture of concrete aggregate, cement, water, and small pieces of shredded rubber from scrap tires. The wall deflects sound waves among its nooks and crannies until they lose energy. Additionally, highly durable rubber-encased railroad ties are being produced using scrap tires. Moreover, rubber-encased railroad ties could last 60 to 90 years versus 5 to 30 years for wood.

### Registration Form

**Environmental Compliance Meeting**  
**Environmental Services Department**  
**City of Grand Prairie Development Center**

**206 W. Church, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**

**Annual Awards Luncheon**

**October 10, 2013**

**11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

**(Lunch 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**

## Plastic Bags Trashed in Texas



Earlier this year Austin approved a disposable plastic bag ban. The law went into effect on March 1, 2013. Since then a landslide of other cities and towns within Texas are in the midst of the same decision. Laredo, Brownsville, and South Padre Island have already passed plastic bag bans as far back as 2011. Currently, the City of Dallas is in deliberations

as how they need to proceed. This plastic bag ban has also moved international with countries such as Australia, Rwanda, India, Mexico, and England all having plastic bag bans. After the passing of the plastic bag ban in March, Texas State Representative Drew Springer submitted a bill called the Shopping Bag Freedom Act to repeal the plastic bag ban. No decision has been made regarding the bill.