

CLEAN AIR

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H₂O LINE NEWSLETTER

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MEETING NOTICE

Please join us on Wednesday, July 24, 2019 for the next Environmental Compliance meeting. The meeting will be held from 9:30 - 11:00 am 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.

Ted Wyman of Texas Department of State Health Services will present "History, Health Effects and Regulations of Asbestos." Mr. Wyman has been involved in every aspect of the asbestos abatement industry from contractor, to consulting, and now to the regulatory side for a total of 31 years and was a contributing party to the revised Texas Asbestos Health Protection Regulations that are soon to be enacted.

To register, or for more information, contact Jody Cason at (972) 237-8070 or jcason@gptx.org, or fax your registration form to (972) 237-8228.

CLEAN AIR ACTION CHALLENGE

The City of Grand Prairie is challenging your company to take actions to reduce air pollution and educate your staff. Your company will need to:



Encourage employees to take the Clean Air Action Pledge at <https://www.airnorthtexas.org/business>.



Create or adopt new creative clean air initiatives to encourage employee participation.



Complete and submit an application to CleanAir@gptx.org by Clean Air Action Day on Friday June 21, 2019.

Winners of the Challenge will be announced at the Annual Environmental Awards Luncheon. For more information on the Challenge including a copy of the application, visit www.gptx.org/CleanAir or contact Eric Straw at estraw@gptx.org (972)237-8277.



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INTERCONTINENTAL TERMINALS COMPANY ACCUSED IN LAWSUIT

Intercontinental Terminals Company (ITC), a liquid petrochemical storage facility in Deer Park, Texas, allegedly released over a million gallons of hazardous waste stored in tanks onsite into floodwaters during Hurricane Harvey over a three day period in August 2017. Mary Hart, formerly a hazardous waste specialist at the facility, filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court that includes allegations that the release was intentional and ordered by a vice president of the company to save the cost of treatment.

An environmental compliance manager with the company, notified the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) that an unauthorized discharge of wastewater

occurred from Aug. 27 through Aug. 29, 2017, but did not specify the chemicals involved, the amount released, or whether the discharge was intentional. He claimed that ITC was attempting to mitigate the impact to the facility during this time period from the excessive rainfall associated with Hurricane Harvey, but did not report details regarding how the hurricane may have caused the discharge.

To date the TCEQ has not confirmed or denied whether an investigation had been opened as a result of the discharge. The agency was approved to suspend certain environmental compliance regulations in 30 TAC following a hurricane disaster declaration by the Governor to facilitate recovery efforts. If it is determined during the lawsuit that the release was not unavoidable, the company may face liability under the federal Clean Water Act which would be outside of TCEQ jurisdiction.



THE WASTE REDUCTION POLICY ACT

The Waste Reduction Policy Act (WRPA) of 1991 was adopted by the Texas Legislature to reduce the volume, toxicity, adverse public health, and environmental effects of pollutants in Texas. The TCEQ adopted the corresponding rule under 30 TAC 335 Subchapter Q. This act requires the following from certain facilities:

- Prepare a five-year Pollution Prevention (P2) Plan,
- Submit an Executive Summary of the P2 Plan, and
- Report annually on their activities to prevent pollution.

The Waste Reduction Policy Act applies to:

- Large and small quantity generators of hazardous waste
- Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) Form R reporters.

The Pollution Prevention Plan must be updated and a new executive summary must be submitted to the TCEQ every 5 years until such time as WRPA no longer applies to the facility.

Additionally, all large quantity generators of hazardous waste and all TRI Form R reporters, with a P2 Plan covering the calendar year 2018, are required to submit Annual Progress Reports (APRs) covering the calendar year of 2018. These reports are due by July 1, 2019. Small quantity generators who do not report on the TRI form R are not required to submit APRs, but must still prepare a P2 Plan and submit the Executive Summary to TCEQ.

For more information go to www.p2plan.org.

WATER CONSERVATION FOR BUSINESSES THIS SUMMER

Similar to residential homes, some businesses can use large quantities of water to maintain outdoor areas. Outdoor water use tips follow:



Maximize the use of natural vegetation and establish smaller lawns. For portions of your lot where a lawn and landscaping are desired, ask your local nursery for tips about plants with low water demand. Consider planting more trees, shrubs, ground covers, and less grass. Shrubs and ground covers provide greenery for much of the year and usually demand less water. Use native plants in flower beds. Cluster plants that require extra care minimize time and save water.



When mowing lawn areas, set the mower blades to 2-3 inches high. Longer grass shades the soil improving moisture retention, has more leaf surface to take in sunlight, allowing it to grow thicker and develop a deeper root system. This helps grass survive drought, tolerate damage, and fend off disease.



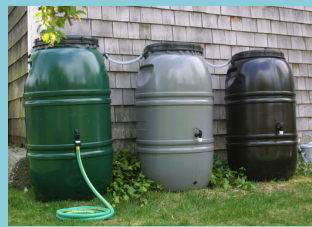
Only water the lawn when necessary. If you water your lawn and flower beds, only do it once a week, if rainfall isn't sufficient. Avoid watering on windy and hot days. Water the lawn and flower beds in the morning or late in the evening to maximize the amount of water which reaches the plant roots (otherwise most of the water will evaporate.) Use soaker hoses to water flower beds. If sprinklers are used, be sure they don't water walkways and buildings. When you water, put down no more than 1 inch (set out empty cans to determine how long it takes to water 1 inch) each week. This watering pattern will encourage more healthy, deep grass roots. Over-watering is wasteful, encourages fungal growth and disease, and results in the growth of shallow, compacted root systems that are more susceptible to drought and foot traffic. If an automatic lawn irrigation system is used, be sure it has been properly installed, is programmed to deliver the appropriate amount, rate of water, and has rain shut-off capability.



Apply mulch around shrubs and flower beds to reduce evaporation, promote plant growth and control weeds.



Add compost or an organic matter to soil as necessary, to improve soil conditions and water retention.



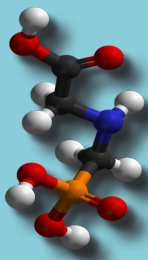
Collect rainfall for irrigation in a screened container (to prevent mosquito larvae growth.)



Always use a broom to clean walkways, driveways, and entrances rather than hosing off these areas.

EPA REAFFIRMS NO RISKS TO PUBLIC HEALTH WITH GLYPHOSATE

On April 30th, 2019, The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reaffirmed its 2017 finding that glyphosate, a popular herbicide in the U.S., does not pose health risks to users when used in compliance with its label and that glyphosate is not a carcinogen. The agency says its scientific findings on human health risk are consistent with the reviews by several other countries and federal agencies. However, the agency says glyphosate does appear to pose some ecological risks, so new management measures are being proposed that will help farmers use glyphosate in the most effective and efficient way possible. The next step in the EPA's process is to re-register the herbicide. EPA's review comes as legal challenges mount against Monsanto, the maker of Roundup, which is a glyphosate based herbicide. Two California juries have ruled in favor of men with lymphoma and blamed the herbicide for their disease.





A commercial recycling facility in Jefferson County was assessed \$9,726 for failing to maintain records of all hazardous and industrial solid waste activities, failure to make waste determinations, failure to properly label drums, and failure to keep hazardous waste containers closed except when adding or removing waste.



A steel fabrication plant in Brazoria County was assessed \$1,312 for failing to obtain authorization prior to operating a source of air emissions.



An asphalt shingle recycling facility in Bexar County was assessed \$6,837 for failing to provide financial assurance for the closure of a recycling facility that stores combustible material outdoors and for failing to report updates to information in the notice of intent.



A metal recycling facility in Comal County was assessed \$22,701 for failing to clearly label used oil storage containers, failing to properly label universal waste batteries, and for allowing the unauthorized disposal of municipal solid waste

This Summer...

Encourage employees to:

- Carpool
- Bike or Walk to Work
- Bring or carpool to lunch
- Maintain consistent driving speed and avoid quick accelerations and heavy braking



Environmental Compliance Meeting Registration Form

History, Health Effects and Regulations of Asbestos

Environmental Service Department,

206 W Church St., 2nd Floor

Wednesday, July 24, 2019, 9:30 to 11:00 a.m.

Company Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Attendees: _____

PLEASE RETURN TO:

Environmental Services Department

P.O. Box 534045

Grand Prairie, TX 7503-4045

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This newsletter is a publication of:

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Submit your comments and suggestions to: