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The Halon Herald

News from the halon & clean agent world

Published by 

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What's Inside...

April 2008

Vol. 4 Issue 7

FSSA Americas

The Air Up There -
J. Demeter

Recipe of the Month

Kidde's Fire FYI Site

The Halon Herald
c/o Wesco HMB
108 Liberty St.
Metuchen, NJ 08840

[Click here](#) to email us

Chrissy George, Editor-
in-Chief

EPA Publishes Greenhouse Gas Survey

The U.S. Environmental protection Agency (EPA) just published the national greenhouse gas inventory. This inventory found that overall emissions during 2006 decreased by 1.1% as compared to the previous year.

The inventory report is the latest in a series of annual reports submitted to the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The full report and details are available [here](#).

The 1.1% decrease was mostly due to a decrease in carbon dioxide emissions from fuel and energy consumption, showing that the efforts by the public and the government to reduce their usage are proving helpful. Warmer winter and cooler summer conditions both contributed to a decrease in heat consumption, reducing demand for electricity and fuel, rising fuel prices (Editor's note - I suppose there is a silver lining in everything), and increased use of natural gas for electric power were also noted as responsible for the overall decrease.

"Each year since 1993, EPA's experts have built a comprehensive inventory of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions," said Robert Meyers principal deputy assistant administrator for EPA's Office Air and Radiation. "Our understanding of emission sources is paramount to combating climate change."

The report calculates carbon dioxide emissions removed from the atmosphere through the uptake of carbon by forests, vegetation, and soil, and compiles them along with greenhouse gas emissions from the national level from 1990-2006.

Fire FYI: Kidde's Educational Website!

Upon searching for new and exciting information to bring you, the readers of the HH, we stumbled

Chrissy's Corner

Randomness from the Editor-in-Chief



I think I speak for all of us when I start out by saying: gas prices STINK.

That's all. I don't need to lament upon it, because I'm sure that you all feel the same way. And, yes, Jerseyans don't pump their own gas and we have some of the lowest gas prices in the country, but that doesn't mean it doesn't hurt any less to pay \$65 a week on gas.

So, yea. Gas prices stink. I just felt the need to shout it from the rooftops.

In other, brighter, happier news, we're coming close to NFPA's World Safety Conference and Expo 2008, which this year is being held June 2-5 in Mandalay Bay, Las Vegas. Wesco will certainly be attending in full force and we're looking forward to this show! NFPA is always one of the biggest, busiest, and FUN shows every year. We always have a blast finally seeing a lot of the faces that we talk to on the phone, talking with old friends and colleagues, and meeting new companies and employees at these shows. And Las Vegas is just plain exciting as well!

Also coming up is the NAFED regional show in Cleveland, OH - this is the last show in the regional series for 2008. NAFED did a great job this year, as they do every year, on their regional show series. I know we here at Wesco thoroughly enjoyed the programs and speakers, and had a blast meeting everyone and seeing all our

Upcoming Events

April 2008

		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

3rd - 4th - NAFED
Regional Conference,
Atlantic City, NJ
20th - Passover

Upcoming Events

May 2008

			1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31		

5th - Cinco de Mayo
8th - 9th - NAFED
Regional Conference,
Cleveland, OH
11th - Mother's Day
26th - Memorial Day

Upcoming Events

June 2008

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

2nd - 5th - [NFPA WSCE](#)
2008
14th - Flag Day
15th - Father's Day
21st - First Day of
Summer

upon this website, which is an informative and educational resource put out by Kidde for anyone, in the fire industry or not: [Fire FYI](#).

Fire FYI is put out by Kidde, but don't get confused - it's not a marketing tool or ploy. It's strictly informational, with subpages such as Codes and Legislation (where you can search for any new legislation your state has put out), or Safety (with tips dependent on the season - this month, there's grill safety).

This is a valuable website, updated monthly with newsletters and information, that anyone, fire industry or not, can use as a reference tool. Be sure to visit Fire FYI when you get a free minute - it's worth your time!

The Air Up There:

"(Halon) fire extinguishers, rusting, seals drying and corroding, waiting to self-vent into the atmosphere (at best) or injure or kill someone unaware of its pressurized contents."

by John Demeter



We liked that point so much we used it twice in our last [column](#). It deserves more attention than we gave it then.

Everyone knows by now that the world reserve of halon, according to our friends at the Halon Technical Options Committee (HTOC) is 50,000 metric tons of halon 1301 and 90,000 metric tons of halon 1211. There was a time when we doubted this number, but have since been convinced by those with greater mathematical and scientific measurement skills, that the number is correct - in fact, some have said recently that it may be understated. Given that the world consumption of halon (let's use halon 1301) is about 600,000 to 800,000 pounds per year, that would leave the world with a 137 to 183 year supply. But that's not why we raise this point.

Let's assume that a third of this halon 1301 has been properly reclaimed, recycled and is now stored safely in one or one-half ton storage cylinders. We're guessing a bit at this number but it seems like a safe assumption. That would mean that of 110 million pounds of halon 1301 remaining in the world bank, just over 36 million pounds are stored safely. The remaining 74 million

customers. We're looking forward to Cleveland - make sure to stop by the Wesco booth!

Thanks for reading,

Influential Industry Greats:

Ned Paine

Many people have passed through the fire protection industry- some more memorable than others; some more effective than others; some who made a difference and some who didn't.

Ned Paine, founder of Amerex Corporation and president from 1971 until its sale to McWane Corporation in 1999, deserves special attention - he was both memorable and effective, and not only made a difference during his stewardship at Amerex but continues to do so, years after his retirement.

Amerex was founded in 1971, by Ned Paine and his partner George Baureis. In the almost 30 years that Ned ran Amerex, it grew into one of the country's largest and most successful industrial fire protection manufacturing firms. Ned's success, in no small part was due to his hard work and experience, but it was personal style that was to put a stamp on his company and the industry for years to come.

The 37 year old company generates \$100 million in annual revenue - but Ned isn't just an Amerex superstar. The former marine and USC graduate's career in the fire industry began with General Fire Extinguisher, and then Badger. In both companies he was a sales manager, becoming intimately familiar with the suppression products offered. When it became time for Ned to make another career move, he took a gamble and started, with George Baureis, Amerex Corp in 1971. To this day, many will agree that Ned built and ran the most successful privately owned extinguisher business in the industry. Through his sales experience and varied product knowledge, Ned assisted in many impactful regulations by FEMA.

pounds remain, as goes this theory, in system cylinders. Now, perhaps some of these system cylinders remain in countries that haven't mandated the premature removal (such as the European Union) and are being regularly serviced by trained technicians, skilled in assuring the integrity of the system. That's a good thing. We should all hope that those with regulatory authority recognize the value of this service in keeping damaging ozone depleting substances in service and out of the atmosphere.

We hope they also recognize the value of an active market for recycled halons that further keeps them out of the atmosphere or at least delays their discharge until the ozone layer is better able to handle the increased exposure. We think they do, at least in some countries.

But nowhere do we see any concern for the potential danger inherent in pressurized vessels (in some cases up to 800 psi) left unattended and outside of anyone's interest or responsibility. Yes, we've seen them. Mostly outside of the U.S. commercial yards filled with row after row of rusting halon cylinders of all different sizes and makes.

How many are there? Let's go back to our calculator. Assume that the average halon 1301 system cylinder contains 200 lbs of halon 1301 (actual cylinders range in size from 20 lbs to 1,000 and this 200 pound number has been used in the past by those attempting to estimate halon availability). If our number is correct, then there are approximately 74 million pounds of halon 1301 remaining in system cylinders - that comes out to 370,000 pressurized system cylinders still in the marketplace. Granted, those of us in the recycling business have a commercial interest in acquiring these cylinders and - after recycling - selling their contents, but is anyone worried about the halon out there that will never make it into the recycled market?

We re-read the HTOC 2006 report and found no mention of this. Destruction? Unlikely, unless someone comes up with the funding. There was plenty of attention spent getting companies to move away from halons - FAST!! But, apparently that which remains out there, with no further use, is, well, someone else's problem.

FSSA Across America

FSSA is holding its next seminar in the Across America series, May 15, 2008, in Tampa, FL!

This informative series is perfect for anyone in the fire suppression industry, or with ties to the industry - contractors, technicians, facility managers, architects, etc. Vital information about

Ned kept his company in the same building they started in - with a couple of additions, of course. With Amerex products being sold worldwide to over 2,000 distributors, extinguishers found in offices, factories, and warehouses, and a variety of suppression systems, the now 310,000 square foot Trussville factory has been expanded multiple times. With expansion, though, the company never got too big for its britches, thanks to Ned.

From the beginning, Ned built the company on employee satisfaction, commitment, and loyalty. Ned instilled coworker loyalty in all of his employees, who are quick to share credit for Amerex's success with others. And in 34 years, Amerex had never laid off an employee. Even after the company was sold, most if not all, of the employees stayed on board by choice.

Ned's commitment to his company is seen in his other endeavors, also. In the year 2000, the town of Trussville was denied money to buy land to build much needed schools during a recent financial crisis. Ned and his wife, Goldie, generously donated enough land to build Paine Primary and Paine Intermediate School. Acts such as this show Ned's generosity, loyalty, and sincerity.



Ned and his wife, Goldie

At the Birmingham-Southern College, the Edgar Katherman Paine Scholarship was established in 1988 and given in honor of Ned Paine by his family and in recognition of his 65th birthday. As evidenced by his donation to the Trussville school district, Ned has been a strong advocate of the importance of education. The BSC scholarship is given to worthy and deserving students from the Trussville Springville area who are planning to concentrate their studies in economics.

Wesco's own John Demeter, who has known Ned since the early 1980's and served with him on FEMA (Fire Equipment Manufacturers Association) committees. John considers Ned a friend, and remembers his first trip to Trussville and a lesson learned from Ned:

"It was a hot, sticky Friday in early summer when I made my first trip to Trussville. I spent the morning getting a tour of the factory (probably close to 250,000 square feet and employing over 300 people at that time). After the tour and demonstration of Amerex's vehical fire protection system, I met Ned in his office and proceeded to lunch. Ned must have been 75 at the time, an age when one would expect someone with his accomplishments would have either been working

designing, installing, and maintaining a fire suppression system is presented in an easy understandable format.

Even better - the seminar is FREE! Check out [FSSA's Across America page](#) for more information, and to see when they are coming to an area nearby you!

Boeing: First 777 Freighter Enters Final Production

Boeing's first 777 Freighter will enter final phases of assembly on April 10, 2008, and will be ready for test flights as soon as this summer.

Based on the 777-200LR Worldliner passenger airplane, the 777 Freighter will be able to fly farther and have more capacity than any other twin engine aircraft. Air France plans on receiving their first delivery of the 777 Freighter in the 4th quarter of 2008. Eleven customers around the world has thus far ordered (78) 777 Freighters.

Trivia Time!

Congratulations to our winners of last month's trivia!

Jennifer Williams, Fireboy

I'm going to be perfectly honest this month - my mind is on food. Hey, this editor is expecting, so of course my mind is a little cloudy! So, this month's question has to do with the food I have been craving the most - CHEESE. The FIRST TWO PEOPLE to [email us](#) with the correct answer to the following question will each win a \$50 American Express gift card! Get ready...

- What cheese is the most widely purchased in the world?

Good luck! Now...excuse me while I go get some cheese fondue...

on his golf game, playing with his grandchildren or traveling. No, Ned was having lunch on this hot Friday afternoon with an old friend and business associate talking about - what else - the fire protection industry. At one point in the conversation Ned changes the subject and asked "Does Wesco sell pull-tight seals?" I said yes (we did at the time). Then he asked "Do you sell Blue Pull tight seals?" I had to think about that one, but answered "yes" again. He finally said, "I pay \$.015 each for my seals - what do you pay?" At that point I was trying to remember the color of my socks and simply replied "Well Ned, I guess we pay about the same price." At which point Ned said, "I've got 20,000 blue pull tight seals sitting in my inventory in Chicago and can't seem to sell them, if I give you a good price, do you think you can move them for me?" At which point I said to this 75 year old (who by now I was convinced had more energy than me) who ran a \$75 million company with over 300 employees but still knew that he had \$300 worth of slow moving inventory in an offsite warehouse, "Ned, for the lesson you just taught me about the importance of inventory control, I'll buy them from you at "retail"!!

Ned truly is an individual that the fire suppression industry owes a lot to, and still learns from today. One of the greats in the industry, Ned will continue to leave his mark for years to come!

Recipe of the Month!

Speaking OF cheese - what better recipe to include in a cheese craving newsletter than a mac and cheese that has seven - yep, count 'em, SEVEN - different types of cheese? I am drooling just thinking of it! This recipe certainly is NOT figure friendly - but it sure is tasty!

The full text of this recipe can be found [here](#). Enjoy!

Delilah's Seven Cheese Mac and Cheese

2 pounds elbow macaroni
12 eggs
1 cup cubed Velveeta cheese
1/2 pound (2 sticks) butter, melted
6 cups half-and-half, divided
4 cups grated sharp yellow Cheddar, divided
2 cups grated extra-sharp white Cheddar
1 1/2 cups grated mozzarella
1 cup grated Asiago
1 cup grated Gruyere
1 cup grated Monterey Jack
1 cup grated Muenster
1/8 teaspoon salt
1 tablespoon black pepper

Save the Date!

Some upcoming important meetings to take note of in your date book:

NAFED Regional Meetings for 2008

May 8-9, 2008, Cleveland, OH

NFPA World Safety Conference & Expo 2008

June 2-5, 2008, Las Vegas, NV

Wesco will be attending all of the above meetings, so be sure to stop by and say hello!

Preheat the oven to 325 degrees F. Bring a large saucepan of salted water to a boil. Add the macaroni and cook until slightly al dente, about 10 minutes. Drain and set aside to keep warm.

Whisk the eggs in a large bowl until frothy.

Add the Velveeta, butter and 2 cups of the half-and-half to the large bowl of eggs. Add the warm macaroni tossing until the cheese has melted and the mixture is smooth. Add the remaining half-and-half, 3 cups of the sharp yellow Cheddar, the remaining grated cheeses, and salt and pepper, tossing until completely combined in the large bowl.

Pour the mixture into 9 by 13-inch casserole or baking dishes (approximately 3 (3-quart) baking dishes) and bake for 30 minutes. Sprinkle with the remaining 1 cup of sharp yellow cheese and bake until golden brown on top, about 30 minutes more.

Serve hot.