

The Halon Herald

News from the halon & clean agent world

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Kidde Recalls XL Fire Extinguishers

Effective immediately, Walter Kidde Portable Equipment Inc., of mebane, NC is recalling Kidde XL Fire Extinguishers with model numbers FX340SC, FX340H, FX340GW, XL5MR, FX210R, FX340SC-2, FX210W, XL2.5TCZ-4, E- 340-3 and with manufacture dates between October 2007 and April 2008.

"Kidde" and the model number can be found on the label on the front of the extinguisher. The manufacture year is on the bottom of the extinguisher. If your extinguisher is one of the listed model numbers and is marked with the year 07 or 08, contact Kidde to determine if you have a recalled extinguisher.

While the majority of these extinguishers were sold in home, department, and hardware stores (between the dates of October 2007 - April 2008), we urge you to check the extinguishers in your business and those sold to clients to ensure their extinguishers are safe. Consumers are asked to check the pressure gauge on these extinguishers, and, if in the red zone, contact kidde immediately for a replacement. For additional information, contact Kidde at (888) 345-4407.

For the full press release, please visit the [official press release from Kidde](#).

The Air Up There: The Future of FM-200 - Worth Repeating

by John Demeter

Chrissy's Corner Thoughts from the Editor-in-Chief



Because of the new upcoming layout that will debut in a few weeks, I've been really musing upon the past history of the HH - looking at old issues, old article ideas, talking about how the newsletter came about...and it just fascinates and humbles me about how far it's come.

September, 2004: "You know, I always wanted to do a newsletter...but an electronic one. Like through email."

The rest - is history.

I'm proud to have been a part of the HH from the start. It's my "baby" (next to Cassie, of course). With so much going on in the industry lately - regulations governing greenhouse gases, FM-200 issues (see John Demeter's article), journeyman status for sprinkler installers, etc. - it really shows that the HH could have some definite power in this industry. The ability to reach 1,800+ readers every month is a vehicle that can be used to benefit not Wesco the company, but the industry. And that 1,800 number is growing every month. We hope to add to it and reach more people in the upcoming months with our new, much more user friendly layout.

I've mentioned this in previous columns, but I love how this industry is not 110% competitive, but also can mobilize to work together to achieve goals. Of course, every company has its competitors, but when the chips are down, when there are regulations to fight and issues to understand, the fire suppression industry is unique in that it can put their competitions aside and learn and work together.

Notable Main Events

April 2009

- 1st - April Fools Day
- 2nd - 3rd - [NAFED Regional Conference](#)
- 9th - Passover
- 12th - Easter
- 22th - Appreciate your employees!
Administrative Professionals Day

May 2009

- 10th - Mother's Day
- 14th - 15th - [NAFED Regional Conference](#)
- 25th - Memorial Day



We wish we could say we started a movement, but our column last month merely reported on events we saw unfolding in the world of clean agent fire protection – specifically, the probable taxation and phase out of HFC 227ea (FM200) because of its role as a Green House Gas (GHG). To its credit the fire protection industry is taking this seriously. And while we never doubted that they would act quickly and decisively, the Fire Suppression System Association (FSSA) has mobilized an effort to inform its members of pending Federal and State regulatory actions and to get its members thinking about the issue. This is a good thing.

More about this effort will be forthcoming in future issues, but we thought it worth repeating our column from last month. This issue is not going away and we believe that the more the industry understands the subject the better position it will be in to continue providing good fire protection. Remember, this is not just about FM200, but the future of special hazard fire protection!

We recently finished an interesting week of travel that started in New Jersey, passed through Orlando and ended up in Las Vegas – where we ate at one of our favorite restaurants – Michael Mina's - pictured elsewhere on these pages. We saw many friends and colleagues, spoke with countless more and realized how lucky we are to work in this fire protection industry. (No, we are not being our usual sarcastic self. We mean it!)

We also realized that this industry is full of some really smart people. People like Dr. Mack McFarland and Dr. Mark Robin of Team DuPont and Tom Cortina of HARC, the three of whom gave insightful presentations at the annual meeting of the Fire Suppression System Association (FSSA), in Orlando. We know we are in the presence of smart people when we take a lot of notes - and take notes we did!

The common thread in the three presentations was **FM200™**. Dr. Robin presented a comparative study of FM200™ and water-based systems that showed the superiority of the former when it comes to fire suppression. Dr. McFarland and Tom Cortina discussed the implications for FM200™ within the current climate change debate. Out of all the notes we scribbled, one stands out among the others. It says, -- wait, before we tell you what the note said, let us be clear. **None of the three presenters actually said this.** The note

This simple fact - well, not SO simple - shows the potential a publication like the HH can have in the immediate and not-so-immediate future. It's a vehicle to mobilize the industry.

I want to thank you all for making that possible.

In other news and tidbits - Fingers crossed that the NJ Devils make it past Carolina in the playoffs!

Thanks for reading,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chrissy George" with a smiley face drawn above the name.

HARC: Keyed in to the Issues

The Halon Herald is proud to feature an article about the Halon Alternatives Research Corporation (HARC), by its president, Tom Cortina, this month. HARC is a vital organization to the industry, always working to bridge the gaps between regulations, science, and business in the fire suppression industry.

Anyone that read the March issue of this publication knows that this is an important time for the special hazard fire protection industry. Key decisions related to the regulation of greenhouse gases will be made internationally and by Federal and state governments over the next few years. These regulations have the potential to have a significant impact on the use of HFCs for fire protection. Small differences in the design of the programs, such as whether production allowances are allocated for free or auctioned, could influence how the programs affect users of HFCs. A slow phase down of production may have very little impact on the use of HFCs in fire protection for many years, or it could raise the cost of HFCs to the point that they might not be as competitive with other options. Some of these questions may not be answered until the regulations are actually implemented, which is not likely to be until 2012 at the earliest.

No other organization is more keyed in to this issue, and all of the environmental issues that affect fire protection, than the Halon Alternatives Research Corporation (HARC). HARC is a non-profit trade association originally formed in 1989 to promote the development and approval of halon alternatives. HARC now serves as an information clearinghouse and a focal point for cooperation between government and industry on issues of importance to special hazard fire protection. Members include alternative agent manufacturers, equipment manufacturers, distributors, recyclers,

was simply **our conclusion** after hearing the presentations. In fact, the three presenters gave remarkably objective assessments.

Our note said:

FM200™ Will Be Taxed by the Federal Government and Possibly State Governments Soon!

FM200™ Will be phased down and possibly out of use within the next 10 years!

Shocking, huh?

We thought so too. We knew that HFCs like FM200™ were under attack for their possible contribution to climate change, but being the optimists we always assumed that due to the societal benefits that FM200™ brings, the relatively small portion that fire protection represents of carbon emissions and the “non emissive” nature of fire suppression, it would not get caught up in Climate Change legislation.

We were wrong. (Mixed Metaphor Warning) The train has left the station! The snowball is gathering size and speed and rolling toward us. The elephant is in the room and the crazy aunt has come down out of the attic!

Last year there were a total of 11 Bills in Congress dealing with Green House Gas (GHG) and that was before the election of an administration committed to not only signing a climate change bill but with a tendency to turning important issues over to his “even more committed” leadership in Congress to write. (See Reid/Pelosi and the Stimulus Bill). While none of these Bills specifically mention fire protection, unless someone inserts an exclusion (see Dodd and the Stimulus Bill) HFC’s (including FM200™ and FE25) will be **taxed and phased out**. Fire protection is very likely to get “more complicated, expensive and difficult” according to a source who wishes to remain anonymous.

Nevertheless, we decided to test our reaction to this issue with others in the industry who heard the same presentations. Another shocker! Nine out of ten people surveyed either agreed with our conclusion or said that it was likely that FM200™ **will be taxed and possibly phased out soon**.

We then asked a question of the same people (most of whom were fire equipment distributors). “If you or one of your sales people were giving a presentation to an account and were asked, ‘is it true, as we have heard, that FM200™ will be **taxed and possibly phased out** by the government because it is a green house gas’ would you know how to respond?” Ten out of Ten said no!

This is not a good thing for our industry, even if you are selling a chemical agent that is not a GHG and is non-zone depleting like 3M’s Novec 1230™. The simple reason is that the market reaction in

and end-users.

One of the main goals of HARC is to facilitate the participation of the industry in the development of policies on the use of special hazard fire protection agents and systems. HARC has helped to demonstrate the leadership of the fire protection industry on the climate change issue with the creation of the Voluntary Code of Practice for the Reduction of Emissions of HFC and PFC Fire Protection Agents (VCOP) and the HFC Emissions Estimating Program (HEEP). These programs were recently highlighted by the US Environmental Protection Agency as key voluntary efforts by industry to reduce the environmental impacts of high-GWP replacements for ozone-depleting substances.

Over the past few weeks HARC members have received detailed memos summarizing draft US climate change legislation that sets up a separate program for HFCs, and international discussions on adding HFCs to the Montreal Protocol. Both of these situations could be resolved this year, or continue to be discussed for another few years. Neither situation is likely to have any immediate impact on the fire protection industry, but the uncertainty of future regulation can cause havoc in the marketplace long before any regulations actually take effect. The best way to combat uncertainty is with knowledge, and the best way to obtain that knowledge when it comes to the impacts of future climate regulations on fire protection is to become a member of HARC.

For more information on HARC or to become a HARC member please contact Tom Cortina at (703) 524-6636 or www.harc.org

Upcoming Meetings

April 1-3 - [NFPA Professional Development Seminar Week](#), Quincy, MA

April 3-4 - [NAFED Regional Meeting](#)

April 6-10 - [NFPA Professional Development Seminar Week](#), Richmond, VA

April 20-22 - [Applying NFPA 101®: Life Safety Code® to the Joint Commission Statement of Conditions](#), Atlanta, GA

April 20-24 - [NFPA Professional Development Seminar Week](#), Atlantic City, NJ

April 27-29 - [NFPA Professional Development Seminar Week](#), London, England

April 27-May 1 - [NFPA Professional Development Seminar Week](#), Quincy, MA

May 4-8 - [NFPA Professional Development](#)

many cases will not be to go with the more "green" agent, but to do without suppression altogether! This is happening now and will only get worse as the climate change debate progresses.

Maybe there are no clear answers at the moment. Maybe the situation is so fluid and complicated by the current economic crisis and inherent complexities of trying to regulate carbon emissions in a carbon based economy that it will take years to resolve? Or maybe not.

A message to manufacturers (of equipment and chemical agent):

Fire Equipment Distributors need an answer to this question: "Is it true what they say about FM200™?" If there is no answer at the moment then fire equipment distributors need to know that their manufacturers and associations are doing everything possible to protect this market that has taken decades to build and provides the highest quality of fire protection anywhere.

If not, prepare to see your sales graphs trending down starting in 2009.

Wesco Attends NAFED

Wesco recently attend the National Association for Fire Equipment Distributors sectional meeting in Atlantic City, NJ this past April.

It was a pleasure to touch base with old clients, meet potential new clients, and get up to date information on the happenings in the industry. Wesco also jointly hosted an evening reception with Dolan's Fire Protection Supply, Inc. and the New Jersey Association of Fire Equipment Distributors (NJAFED) after the meetings expo.

See below for some pictures from the event!

Recipe of the Month!

I've been reluctant to share this recipe with the masses, as it's the dessert I am "known for" in my family for bringing to events, barbecues, etc. It is totally a crowd pleaser, and will make your entire house smell amazing while baking. Try to hold back your salivation until you actually get to EAT the final product!

[Seminar Week](#), Farmington, CT

May 11-15 - [NFPA Professional Development Seminar Week](#), Nashville, TN

May 12-14 - [The Research Foundation will sponsor a seminar and symposium on dust explosion hazards](#), Baltimore, MD

May 14-15 - [NAFED Regional Meeting](#)

May 18-22 - [NFPA Professional Development Seminar Week](#), Quincy, MA

June 1-5 - [NFPA Professional Development Seminar Week](#), Cranberry Twp, PA

June 8-11 - [NFPA Conference and Expo](#)

June 8-10 - [Applying NFPA 101®: Life Safety Code® to the Joint Commission Statement of Conditions](#), Oakbrook Terrace, IL

June 10-12 - [International Fire Safety Conference](#), Madrid, Spain

June 22-26 - [NFPA Professional Development Seminar Week](#), Ft. Lauderdale, FL

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

Toll House Chocolate Chip Cookie Pie

- * 2 eggs
- * 1/2 c. all-purpose flour
- * 1/2 c. sugar
- * 1/2 c. finely packed brown sugar
- * 1 c. butter, melted and cooled (it is extremely important to let the butter cool, or else it will melt your chocolate chips!)
- * 1 (6 oz.) pkg. (1 c.) Nestle's Toll House semi-sweet chocolate chips
- * 1 c. chopped pecans or walnuts
- * 1 (9-inch) unbaked pie shell

If using frozen pie shell, use only deep dish style and thaw completely. Place on cookie sheet; bake 10 minutes longer.

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. In large bowl, beat eggs until foamy. Add flour and both sugars. Beat until well blended, and blend in melted butter. Stir in chocolate chips and nuts. Pour into pie shell. Bake at 325 degrees for 1 hour. Serve warm with whipped cream or ice cream.

Makes 1 pie.