

The Halon Herald

News from the halon & clean agent world

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Chrissy George, Editor-in-Chief

The Ozone Layer: A Longer Recovery

According to reports released this month by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the stratospheric ozone layer will recover from excess solar radiation 5 to 15 years later than originally expected.

According to the report, the ozone layer over the mid latitudes (30 – 60 degrees North and South) should recover by 2049, five years later than the previous assessment. The ozone over the Antarctic should recover by 2065, 15 years later than once expected – a recovery that is slowed by the super fast/super cold winds over the Antarctic.

These later dates come from revisions of the amounts of CFC-11 and CFC-12 that will eventually be released into the air, and high estimates of future production of HFCF-22 (a CFC substitute that still poses some danger to the ozone). The goal of returning to pre-1980 ozone layers is still attainable, however, it will take longer than expected. Pre-1980 levels is the goal, mostly the chlorine levels. Lower chlorine levels should connect with increased ozone levels. This will result in a reduction in solar ultraviolet penetration down to the ground, however, climate changes and other variables in measured regions hinder solid conclusions to this theory.

An overabundance of atmospheric ozone depleting substances are showing a downward trend, however. "The early signs that the atmosphere is healing demonstrate that the Montreal Protocol is working. But the delayed recovery is a warning that we cannot take the ozone layer for granted and must maintain and accelerate our efforts to phase out harmful chemicals," states Achim Steiner, Executive Director of UNEP.

Concluding the report are factors that will accelerate and decelerate this recovery, such as government compliance with ODS phase outs (obviously an acceleration), or exemptions to phase out rules, thus continuing regular use of ODS (obviously a deceleration).

It is plain to see, as a result of the findings of this report, that we all must work together to ensure that the ozone layer will repair itself in as fast a time as possible. We here at Wesco remind all of our customers, clients, and friends to be mindful of your ozone layer, and do everything in your power to maintain a safe working environment when working with ODS at all times.

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



Did you ever stop and think exactly HOW important you and your industry are to the grand scheme of life? I'm focusing on the fire protection industry here primarily, but I am sure every other industry can - and should - do this themselves. Exactly what you do - and what your company does - makes the world a safer/better place for those around you. YOU make the world a better place.

This past weekend, I was watching SportsCenter highlights with Tom (my husband) and they were showing a particularly gruesome drag race crash that had occurred (don't even ask me where, when, or who it involved; I'm lucky if I can even remember the channel SportsCenter is on in the first place). Anyways, it was reported that no one was hurt, despite the car being engulfed in flames.

I excitedly pointed out to Tom, "Know WHY he didn't get hurt?? Huh?? Do ya?? Because of HALON!"

Now I could be completely wrong about IF they even had halon in the "cockpit" of that specific kind of car, but it made me stop and think. I go into work everyday, as most people do, do my business, and that's that. I never give a second thought as to what I am REALLY contributing to (i. e., saving people's lives).

We had a speaker once at a trade show give a speech on customer service. He ended it with a story about how he always makes time to do the fire protection trade shows, because he was giving a speech once at a large corporation who had a glitch in their electric system and the warehouse sparked. He said he would have gotten stuck if it wasn't for the FM-200 systems throughout the building. "You all saved my life. That's why I am here today. Thank YOU for doing what you do." He ended his speech.

I think it really puts things into perspective when you take a moment to stop and look at not just the big picture, but the BIG big picture, you realize how important and significant a role you play. You help save lives, possessions, memories.

Upcoming Events

August 2006

		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		

14th - 15th - Standards Engineering Society (SES) Annual Conference, Cleveland, OH
17th - 18th - NAFED certification exam training (portables) www.nafed.org

Upcoming Events

September 2006

					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

4th - Labor Day
6th - 10th - AFSA Conference (American Fire Sprinkler Association) (www.sprinklernet.org)
23rd - Rosh Hashanah begins
23rd - Autumn begins

New Column!!

The Halon Herald is looking to feature several "war stories" of some of our readers' interesting experiences with halon or other clean agents.

Plays of the Month!

In order to sufficiently introduce our new section, it would only be fitting to have the ESPN SportsCenter music playing in the background...but since that's copyrighted and all, just hum it in your head. Or out loud. It'll get the same effect for our "Plays of the Month"! We'd like to introduce a new feature into the Halon Herald – Plays of the Month. In this feature we will highlight 3 of our transactions in which the customer got the fastest, most beneficial service possible. This month's plays are:

3. A customer in New England had a Chemetron halon 1301 cylinder discharge, and needed it filled as soon as possible. Wesco looked in its extensive cylinder inventory and was able to find a duplicate of the type of cylinder needed – it was filled and sent out the very next day to the customer, for a cylinder swap out – the empty cylinder could be sent back at their convenience.

2. Another customer of ours had an irate customer on THEIR hands. Seems a FM2-00 cylinder had a gauge "in the red" and needed to be inspected and fixed ASAP. What to do? The customer brought it to Wesco and it was inspected thoroughly, filled, and returned in less than 6 hours.

And the number 1 "Play of the Month":

1. A customer called in with a refill emergency on a Sunday afternoon, after normal business hours – he needed 2 Fenwal halon 1301 systems refilled. It's Sunday afternoon, and he needs them for Monday morning, as a result of an emergency discharge. Can we do it? OF COURSE! The cylinders were received and refilled on Sunday afternoon and ready for pickup on Monday morning at 8 AM.

Trivia Time!

Congratulations to last month's winners!

Judith Robertson, Argus Ltd., Surrey, UK
 Scott Starr, Firetrace, Scottsdale, AZ

This month's trivia focuses on labor Day, that wonderful day we all look forward to as a day off to end the summer. Good luck - the first 2 people to click [here](#) and email us with the correct answers to BOTH questions will win a \$50 Amex gift card each. Remember, in order to be eligible, you cannot have won the trivia contest in the last 3 months.

- What year was the first Labor Day celebrated?
- What day of the week was the first Labor Day celebrated on?

Good luck!

YOU and YOUR COMPANY are very important. wWhether you advertise the gas (me!), install the systems, fill the systems, answer the phones for the company that fills the systems, or delivers the gas cartridge actuators FOR the systems - you...YOU are important. Without you, something would not happen - the phone would be unanswered, the GCA's wouldn't be at the site, the customer wouldn't know about the best defense for their paintings. YOU make a difference.

It makes you feel kinda good, doesn't it?

So, on those days where you just can't get out of bed and drag yourself to the office...or the days where all you get are angry customers on the phone...or when things just aren't going right, stop and think of how important YOU are. It really helps, trust me.

Wesco Oxygen Acquired by Linde Gas

After reading that headline, some of you may be scratching your head asking, "But I thought they were in the halon business...?"

We are. However, a few years ago after the incorporation of Wesco HMB, Inc. we started to look at the gas market and realized the potential for a medical oxygen company with a focus on medical oxygen – delivering to doctors, dentists, medical offices, and home healthcare companies. After researching further and obtaining FDA approval, Wesco Oxygen was born. In the years that followed, Wesco Oxygen grew to service and dominate the NJ/NY/PA/DE area, delivering to healthcare companies and doctors throughout.

Wesco then decided that, while Wesco oxygen was highly profitable, the major focus of the Wesco family should be on halon and fire suppression gases. It was concluded to sell Wesco Oxygen in order to not only focus on the fire suppression aspect better, but use it's familiarity with customer and popularity to fuse with another medical oxygen company, thus providing more opportunities and service for medical oxygen customers throughout.

Linde AG, an international company with its registered office in Wiesbaden, Germany, made an offer to purchase Wesco oxygen, and we are proud to say that Wesco Oxygen is now a part of LifeGas (a division of Linde Gas LLC), headquartered in Dayton, NJ.

"The employees and management of Wesco Oxygen worked diligently over the last four years and built a business that was a perfect fit for Life Gas," remarks John Demeter, president. "We're sure that with their experience in the medical oxygen business, they will continue Wesco Oxygen's record of near faultless service to our customers in the Tri-state area." All of Wesco Oxygen's employees (with the exception fo Joan Hagan, who will rejoin Wesco HMB< Inc.) have moved to the new facility.

Congratulations to both LifeGas and Wesco Oxygen, for a merger that is sure to better serve the entire tri state area, bringing excellent medical oxygen service to all of its customers!

Welcome George McDonald! Wesco HMB, Inc. is proud to announce the hiring of George McDonald, who will be our new warehouse supervisor! All of the activities associated with the warehouse will be under the watchful eye of George – so you can expect streamlined, superior service from all your warehouse transactions with Wesco! Let's get to know George a little bit...read on!

Got a story to tell? [Click here](#) to email us some facts - We'll feature you in an upcoming Halon Herald!

FALL...



Into Competitive Halon Pricing!

Wesco Buys & Sells
Halon 1301
Halon 1211
HFC-227ea

With the most competitive pricing on the market!

Don't wait for another leaf to fall – Call TODAY!
1-800-433-1751

• Where did you work before coming to Wesco?
I worked at The New York Times (N.Y.T.), for 33 years.

• What brought you to Wesco?
To young to retire, (54) I sought something local, yet exciting & rewarding.

• What is your role at Wesco?
As it evolves daily, it begins with receiving & shipping and rounds out with a fair share of multitasking.

• What do you consider your biggest accomplishment professionally?
Rising through the ranks at the N.Y.T. from a machine operator on the production floor to an Advertising/ Production manager.

• What do you hope to accomplish at Wesco?
Wesco shows so much potential, I hope to play a major role as we grow the business & move forward!

• What interests you the most about halon/clean agents (i.e., the recycling process, the regulations, etc.)? Why?
I had limited knowledge of what halon was about, so I saw right away, this facilities attention to safety both internal (the workplace) and external (the environment).

• How long have you known John?
I've known John & his lovely wife Pate for 12 years. We coached our daughters' softball team & sat through many cheerleading events, together.

• What do you like to do in your spare time?
From May through Oct., I "morph" into POOL BOY ! I find the maintenance quite therapeutic (and it comes with a bonus tan)!

• What's your favorite food?
I enjoy all kinds of seafood.

• What's your favorite sport (to watch and to play) and favorite sports teams?
Football is my favorite –I can still throw a tight spiral. I pull for both of the N.Y. teams.

• Family Life time – do you have any children?
I am glad to say, happily married for 33 year (just last week). We have two daughters---Meghan & Meredith .

Welcome to Wesco, George!