

The Halon Herald

News from the halon & clean agent world

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The Halon Herald
c/o Wesco HMB

Sweden & UNEP Work Together to Phase Out HCFCs

The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) have joined together to launch a series of activities that will offer assistance to developing countries trying to phase out hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs). In addition, UNEP has opened a new section to their website, entitled, "The HCFC Help Centre", to aid these countries with policy and technology questions. Other than the obvious goal of phasing out the reliance of HCFCs in these developing countries, UNEP and SEPA hope to raise industry and government awareness in developing countries about environmentally safe alternatives and approaches.

HCFCs are lower in ozone depleting potential as compared to CFCs, the fact still remains that HCFCs are harming the ozone layer and, as standalones, do pose great harm - more than carbon dioxide. This partnership is in response and conglomeration with the Montreal Protocol adjustment that caps production and consumption levels in developing countries by 2013 and brings forward the final phase out date of these chemicals by ten years. This accelerated phase out would have immeasurably benefits to the ozone layer - preventing the release of up to the equivalent of about 25 billion metric tonnes of carbon dioxide.

Dr. Husamuddin Ahmadzai, Senior Adviser, Swedish Environmental Protection Agency said, "Having phased out HCFC consumption in Sweden, to a large extent, we have the experience to share in this regard. We have been working with UNEP's OzonAction programme to develop and apply our knowledge as a platform to benefit developing and emerging countries.

"I have no doubt that this decision will be inspiring to the delegates of the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Bali next month where activities beyond 2012 will be negotiated."
- Achim Steiner

Mr. Achim Steiner, United

Chrissy's Corner

Randomness from the Editor-in-Chief



MERRY CHRISTMAS!! HAPPY HANUKKAH!! JOYOUS KWANZAA!!

That being said, I hope you and your families and loved ones had wonderful holiday celebrations this year. I can truly say that I had a fantastic holiday (minus the whole furnace breaking on Christmas Eve and being greeted by 53 degrees after church). I got to see both sides of my families, share some great news, and eat some delicious Italian food. And an endless supply of cookies. After all, the holidays are about eating delicious food that "has no calories", right?

Winter is a tough season. It's cold, snowy, dreary at times. Icy. Kind of sad. However, Santa Claus brought my husband and I something to help us weather the crappy weather and allow us to still be "active": A Nintendo Wii.

Now, before you go thinking that this is going to be a Public Service Announcement for the most sought after holiday gift of 2007, it isn't. We TECHNICALLY got our Wii the day AFTER Christmas, when I was lucky enough to walk into a Best Buy when they had gotten a shipment in. Tom (husband) and I had discussed getting one previously (I am not a child of Nintendo or Sega or Atari even, we never had video game systems in my family growing up, we had computers instead - Commodore 64's).

It was the BEST purchase I made this season. Why, do you ask? Well, a Wii is not like the video games of old, where you have a controller with

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Chrissy George, Editor-in-Chief

Upcoming Events

December 2007

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2nd - 4th - [NFPA Remembering When 2007 Conference](#)
5th - Happy Hanukkah!!
6th - HARC/HRC Board Meeting
22nd - Winter Solstice
25th - Merry Christmas!
26th - Joyous Kwanzaa!
31st - New Year's Eve

Upcoming Events

January 2008

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1st - New Year's Day
13th - 15th - [Intersec Middle East 2008 Expo](#)
21st - Martin Luther King Day

Upcoming Events

Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UNEP said, "This new initiative by the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency and UNEP is a first important step to follow up on the historic decision on HCFCs under the Montreal Protocol. That decision is binding for 191 nations around the world and from 2013 developing countries will start to take action that will have major climate and ozone layer benefits. I have no doubt that this decision will be inspiring to the delegates of the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Bali next month where activities beyond 2012 will be negotiated."

What's the Scuttlebutt?

As the Halon Herald was going to press this month, we received information from someone in a position to know and were told that DuPont has agreed to purchase the fluorine business from Chemtura (formerly Great Lakes Chemical Company). This would include Chemtura's FM 200 business.

The Air Up There:
And Then There Was One...Again

by John Demeter



Years ago, in what sometimes seems like a former life, a poster hung outside of our office. It was large, metal framed, light blue background and displayed the following quote in bold black letters:

**A Little Competition is a Good Thing.
Intense Competition is a blessing!**

We forget the author's name, but remember that he was an executive at the Quaker Oats Company and the quote was circa 1910. We suspect he was not in the sales department. What we liked about this quotation was it's simple, clear message that we are reminded of all too infrequently – that when we expect "a little" competition in business it makes us "ok", "better than the other guy", "let's

eighty bajillion buttons where pressing A, B, 4, in a rapid combination for 5.7 seconds will allow you to jump a gorge. No, a Wii is for those of us less coordinated than that. Everything is done by using an ergonomic remote control that you attach to your hand via a wristband (this is important unless you want your flat screen tv screen to be demolished) and sensed via motion.

Picture this: You're playing a tennis game on Wii. Instead of using the arrow keys to move your player from side to side and pressing A and B buttons to swing - you actually move YOURSELF in front of the tv from side to side, and swing your ARM, with the controller firmly attached to the wrist and in hand (see? wristband) to hit the ball. You hear the "pwock" of the tennis ball come from your HAND as it whizzes by your face. Oops - you hit the ball too hard. Out of bounds (this happens to me a lot).

See, a Wii is motion sensed, and everything you do with that remote in your hands is read by a receptor by or on top of your tv and is transpired onto the tv. You are REQUIRED to get up and move to play these games - with bowling, you have to swing the remote like you're letting go of a bowling ball (wristband importance again - you don't want to let your remote go and have it crash into the tv). How about golf? You hold the remote like a golf club and your swing is measured and demonstrated on the tv screen, determining how far it goes, how it curves, where it goes, etc. Boxing even - you bob and weave and jab and uppercut your computer opponent with 2 controllers in your hands. My 63 year old father, a man who has not been athletic in the past 15 yrs due to leg problems, was able to get up and play golf again without having to worry about the painful walk on the golf course, or the blazing sun. It was pouring rain outside when we set up our Wii - but Dad and Tom were golfing on a sunny course. ACTUALLY golfing.

Why is this system so cool, other than the obvious reasons? Well, Guitar Hero II IS pretty darn cool, if I do say so myself, partly because Tom thinks he's the next Slash from Guns and Roses. But the real excitement of this system is that it answers the demand of eradicating child obesity. It's a video game that gets your child (or adult, or 63 yr old father) up and moving and active again. They don't turn into vegetables. The Wii is reported to be in children's hospitals, aiding in physical rehabilitation. Nursing homes, retirement homes, and senior communities are using them for rehabilitation and activities for those less mobile than others.

Ok, so maybe this DID turn into a PSA for the Wii. But I have to say, if your child was begging for a Wii, they have a good reason. They SHOULD get one. It is a different type of video game system than ever before. Heck, I'm 26 yrs old and I ADORE my Wii. It can help you exercise and get through these dreary, cold, snowy winter months by playing on a sunny golf course (the sun even

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9th - 12th - [FSSA 2008 Conference](#) 14th - Valentine's Day
18th - President's Day
25th - The Halon Herald's Editor-in-Chief's birthday
29th - Leap Day/Year

have a beer tonight and celebrate winning that order". Now, there's nothing wrong with "a little competition". Competition, and the money it produces, makes the world go 'round – to quote the lyrics from a movie we were once forced to see. However, simple competition never forces the big changes; never creates a "game changer"; never creates new markets, new products – like an alternative for halon 1301! That takes "intense" competition!

Elsewhere on these pages we report on the possible acquisition of Chemtura's fluorine business by DuPont. The Chemtura Company came into existence in 2005 when the Crompton Corporation merged with Great Lakes Chemical Company (GLCC). We don't know much about the former, and if this sale proceeds their time in the fire protection industry will have been short lived. We are familiar with GLCC, having worked with them over the years and also having the privilege of spending several hours with their then president Emerson Kampen, a driving force (and intense competitor in his own right) in the specialty chemical industry for over two decades.

Likewise, we are familiar with DuPont, 3M, American Pacific, Ansul, Marioff and the number of other companies listed on the EPA's SNAP List of Halon Substitute manufacturers. Sounds like pretty healthy competition doesn't it? Maybe even "intense"? We wonder.

HFC 227 (marketed as FM200 by Chemtura and FE227 by DuPont) currently dominates the market for halon replacement gaseous fire protection. Some surveys have 227's market share in excess of 75%.

Soon, if this acquisition proceeds, an enormous sector of the gaseous fire protection market will be controlled by one company. This is not necessarily a bad thing. DuPont is a fine company with a strong track record in the fire protection business. It just makes us a tad uncomfortable and curious about the future of clean agent fire protection. This industry has dumped a fair amount of confusion upon the end-users of our products – and current global warming concern about HFC's doesn't help. The company that controls such a large share of the market has a large responsibility to both fight the current battles and position itself and the industry for the future. We suspect DuPont is up to the task. If not, others will be.

Only time will tell.

5,000th Airbus Aircraft Delivered to Qantas

Airbus will celebrate its 5,000th aircraft, an A330-200, to the Australian airline, Qantas, on December 14. This major milestone comes 33 years after Airbus' first aircraft creation in May

gets in your eyes when you watch the ball fly through the air) or in an arena filled with tennis fans. Most importantly - it will get you UP and off of the couch without you even realizing it's "exercise" or "activity".

I'm telling you: I dare you to just try and NOT jam out to "welcome to the Jungle" while you play it on your Guitar Hero guitar. I dare you.

Happy Thanksgiving, everyone, from the Wesco family to yours!

Thanks for reading,

Spotlight on State Organizations: CALSAFE



Last month we introduced the state organizations in the U.S. This is the first of our monthly columns: A concise bio on CALSAFE, the California Association of Life Safety & Fire Equipment!

CALSAFE's president is Darryl Hefley, of Jorgenson, Co. The Board of Directors includes Allen Quirk, of Paraclete Fire & Safety, and Edie Wade, from Brooks Equipment. You can view the full list of directors [here](#).

CALSAFE's major goal is to "promote and enhance the image of the industry". They hold a yearly meeting in order to achieve the following goals (taken from the CALSAFE webpage) and discuss new issues as they arise in the industry:

It is the intention of this association, through a consolidated effort, to obtain support from the State Fire Marshal, local fire authorities, and a majority of the fire protection industry to achieve our goals, some of which will be, but not limited to, the following:

1974. In 1993, Airbus delivered its 1,000th aircraft, and reached 2,000th in 1999. The 3,000th aircraft was delivered in 2001, which shows Airbus' rapid growth and expansion, and then the 4,000th was delivered in September 2005. Only 2 years later, Airbus was pleased to announce the delivery of its 5,000th aircraft to Qantas. By reading these figures, it is easy to see the incline that Airbus is on with its rapid expansion.

Airbus continues to ramp up production to cope with market demand for more planes in the A330/A340, and A320, and A380 families. More than 8,000 Airbus aircrafts have been ordered to date.

Qantas became an Airbus customer in 2000, and now operate a fleet of 36 aircrafts, with the intention to order 50 more A320's.

"Not only does it require a vision, but it also requires a strong commitment to invest in the long term. This was the basis to the Airbus success", says Airbus President and Chief Executive Officer Tom Enders. "And today, I want to assure our customers, our employees, our suppliers and shareholders, and all our other stakeholders, that we are committed to building on this success for the future by ensuring the competitiveness of our company and its products to the benefit of all".

For more information on this, please visit [Airbus' Press Release](#).

Trivia Time!

Congratulations to our winners of last month's trivia!

Rudolf Klitte, Kidde-Danmark
Mark Smith, Keystone Fire Protection

This month, we're feeling charitable. It IS the holidays, isn't it? So, instead of making you rack your brains and think difficult thoughts, we're going to look for the first **4 people that email us with their favorite holiday memory**. Those 4 people will EACH win a \$50 American Express gift card! if you have won the trivia contest in the past 3 months, you are not eligible for this giveaway.

We're expecting at least 3 sentences describing your memory - if you write, "I remember opening presents under the tree" - that's not good enough! I'll give you an example of MY favorite Christmas memory, which occurred a few days ago on Christmas Eve:

"My favorite memory is Christmas Eve dinner of 2007. My husband and I found out earlier last month that we're expecting a baby, the first child for us and the first grandchild for both our parents. We broke the news at Christmas Eve

- * To promote and enhance the image of the industry.
- * To create standards for the industry.
- * To establish effective liaison with the State Fire Marshal's Office and other state and local agencies and legislative groups.
- * To foster and promote the highest possible quality of service provided by the fire protection industry.
- * To seek clarification and interpretative opinions from the State Fire Marshal's Office concerning the requirements of Title 19 of the Administrative Code and other applicable laws and regulations.
- * To insure the uniform interpretation of and conformity by members of the association with the provisions of Title 19 of the California Administrative Code and other applicable laws and regulations.
- * To establish criteria for identifying and eliminating unfair or image damaging practices within the fire protection industry.
- * To act as a liaison with local and state agencies to make common problems and matters of interest known.
- * To assist local and state agencies to obtain and disseminate information concerning developments in our industry.
- * To act as an independent agency whose duties shall be to accomplish the purposes of the association as outlined above.
- * To operate independently of any member company and be of assistance to all.
- * To operate as a non-profit organization and collect only such dues as are necessary to cover costs of operation.

CALSAFE's new webpage has a plethora of options for the member and non member to learn about California regulations and news, ask questions, or become a member. Member benefits include the "Ask an Expert" application, where members can ask whatever question is on their mind and receive a valid answer, Editorials and a Newsletter (what are your CALSAFE directors thinking on that new regulation?), Recent News, and even a discussion board that links you to other members all throughout the state.

Membership could be for an Active company (active members are eligible to vote and hold office), and is available to any company in California that holds a valid Portable Fire Extinguisher Concern License issued by the Office of the State Fire Marshal. Associate companies are those that are not eligible to be active members - they receive the same newsletters and information that Active members do, but are unable to hold office or hold office. As of press date, membership dues for each are \$195 per year.

To join CALSAFE, click [here](#).

dinner with 'grandma' and 'grandpa' ornaments for each grandparent-to-be. I will never forget the joy and excitement on their faces as they all screamed so loudly!" - Chrissy George.

GOOD LUCK! Remember - the first FOUR PEOPLE will win! So get typing!

Save the Date!

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

FSSA 2008 Meeting

February 9-12, 2008, Clearwater, FL

NAFED Regional Meetings for 2008

Mar 6-7, 2008, Las Vegas, NV

Apr 3-4, 2008, Atlantic City, NJ

May 8-9, 2008, Cleveland, OH

Recipe of the Month!

There's only one word that I can possibly use to describe this recipe:

YUMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMM! I made this omelet for Christmas morning breakfast and it was delicious - if you're not a bacon fan like myself (I know, shocking) try sausage or turkey sausage - use about 2-3 fat links, thawed, and squeeze the meat out of the casing. Prior to mixing it in with the eggs and such, saute/brown it in a frying pan sprayed with nonstick cooking spray as if you were browning ground beef. Tasty!

This recipe was copied from [the Food Network's Website](#). 1/4 pound good thick-cut bacon

- 1 tablespoon unsalted butter
- 1 cup medium-diced Yukon gold potato
- 1/2 cup chopped yellow onion
- 1 tablespoon minced jalapeno pepper (this can easily be left out)
- 5 extra-large eggs
- 2 tablespoons milk or cream
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 1/4 cup chopped scallions, white and green parts (also can be left out if not on hand)
- 4 ounces extra-sharp Cheddar, diced, plus extra grated cheese, for garnish

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F.

Cut the bacon crosswise in 1-inch slices. Cook the bacon in an 8-inch ovenproof saute pan over

Boeing & British Airways Finalize Contract

Boeing and British Airways have reached an agreement for Boeing to deliver 8 Boeing 787-8s and 16 787-9s, raising the total number of 787s worldwide to 790. The recent British Airways order is valued at \$4.4 billion at list price.

British Airways decided and announced last fall that the 787 Dreamliner family was going to be a key player in their fleet for long haul journeys, and will power the 787s with the Rolls Royce Trent 1000. The 787s will help British Airways reduce CO2 emissions and leave a smaller noise footprint 60% less than those of similarly sized aircrafts. They offer more cargo revenue capacity, the largest windows, higher cabin humidity, and lower cabin altitude (reducing passenger fatigue).

Willie Walsh, British Airways' chief executive, said, "The 787 is a fantastic aircraft and will be a welcome addition to our fleet. It will provide major environmental improvements in terms of global emissions, local air quality and noise.

"With lower operating costs and the range to fly to all our destinations, it will give us more flexibility when planning our route network and we are confident that our customers will enjoy flying on the aircraft," Walsh said.

"This order is a vote of confidence from one of the world's leading global network carriers in the 787's unprecedented performance," said Marlin Dailey, vice president of Sales for Europe, Russia and Central Asia, Boeing Commercial Airplanes. "No other airplane in its category offers British Airways the superior efficiency, economics and passenger comfort while also fitting so easily into its medium- and long-haul twin-aisle fleet."

"Reaching the 787th order is significant for the program, and it's great that we get to celebrate it with British Airways. Their leadership in the industry validates our momentum in the marketplace," said Patrick Shanahan, vice president and general manager, 787 Program.

For more information on this, please visit [Boeing's Press Release](#).

medium-low heat for 5 to 7 minutes, stirring occasionally, until browned. Drain the bacon on paper towels and discard the fat from the pan. Add the butter to the pan, and then add the potato and yellow onion. Cook over medium-low heat for about 10 minutes, tossing occasionally, until the onion starts to brown and the potato is tender but firm. Add the jalapeno pepper and cook for 30 seconds.

Meanwhile, in a medium bowl, beat the eggs, milk, salt, and pepper together with a fork. Stir in the scallions and diced Cheddar. When the potato is cooked, add the bacon to the pan and pour over the egg mixture. Place the pan in the oven for 15 to 20 minutes, until the omelet puffs and the eggs are almost cooked in the center. Sprinkle with a handful of grated Cheddar and bake for another minute. Serve hot directly from the pan.