

The Halon Herald

News from the halon & clean agent world

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What's Inside...
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Give us an Email,
We'll Give you a Prize!

Airlines Scramble for
Halon
Alternatives

And MORE!

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Chrissy Kosturski,
Editor-in-Chief

The Switch to Halon Alternatives in Commercial Aviation: Slow Transition Concerns Many

New halons have not been produced since 1994, but the aircraft industry is still heavily dependent upon halon 1301 and halon 1211 for their fire suppression needs in both new and old aircrafts. While there are many alternatives to halon, certain factors hinder a full transition into the aircraft market, causing concern to some that we will run out of halon before the transition is complete.

The end of halon production in the U.S., coupled with uncertainty about the amount of halons left, are triggering many industry representatives and government officials to scratch their head and wonder what the next step should be. According to a recent report prepared for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the slow transition away from halons in the commercial aviation industry is a conglomeration of factors – economic, regulatory, and, above all, technical. These factors pose a significant problem, resulting in a dependency on halons that will extend far past the original 25-30 year lifespan of aircrafts. Even more troubling is that stockpiles may be completely depleted before the industry makes a complete transition.

Halons are critical to commercial aviation fire protection. They are clean, safe, highly effective, and provide a "space and weight" advantage that no halon alternative has been able to match. However, their damage to the ozone layer and the fact that they might not be available 20 years from now, requires that the aviation industry begin acting now to plan for an alternative. Over the last 20 years, halons have been slowly phased out and replaced by alternatives in several industries – the merchant marine community, the military, and the oil and gas production world now have new technologies that no longer require halons. Stockpiles are still maintained for existing equipment, but it is safe to say that the aforementioned industries are progressing nicely with alternatives.

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



HAPPY NEW YEAR!! The entire staff of The Halon Herald, as well as myself, hope that you had quite a lovely New Year's celebration. I, for one, spent my New Year in grand style: I moved into a new place on New Year's Eve, and thus spent the entire evening unpacking 1,225 boxes (I may be exaggerating just a bit). Nothing like starting the New Year off right!

With a new year comes new beginnings. Resolutions are made - resolutions are broken - all in a day's work, right? Here at Wesco, our resolution remains firm, and we plan to observe it and uphold it strictly throughout the new year: To give all of our customers, clients, and friends the best, most comprehensive, and friendliest service possible.

Recently, I was getting my car serviced at a gas station nearby, and while waiting, my eyes were scanning the walls for anything other than "Carborator Fun Facts" to read. An interesting "inspirational poster" caught my eye. It read: "Good service long outlasts a cheap price." It went on with a little anecdote about a man who paid a cheap price for a fast engine switchout, and then drove away dragging the engine behind him. The poster explains, "he got what he paid for."

That poster made me think. How often, as a society, do we look for the cheapest price, the fastest job, run run run, need to get from point A to point G as fast as possible. But when you stop and think about it, the tortoise and the hare had it right - slow and steady wins the race. I would much rather have my radiator leak fixed correctly, and take the extra hour or so, than to

Upcoming Events January 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				

1st - New Year's Day

16th - Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Unfortunately, the case is not so for the commercial aviation industry. Certain proven halon alternatives such as carbon dioxide, water sprinklers, fine water mist, foam, dry chemicals, and aerosols are all viable alternatives for halon, but the amount of space they require and the total weight of the systems (and other technical obstacles) prevent them from being a "drop in" alternative to halon. The good news is that halon alternatives have been found for both hand-held extinguishers and lavatory trash receptacles and will slowly work their way onto aircraft over the next few years. However, alternatives for the engine nacelle and auxiliary power units are proving to be a bit more vexing, both from a "space weight" and technical standpoint.

While there are still regulations for certain aircraft applications to allow for halon use, halon supplies will not last forever, as we all know. As we will further discuss in The Halon Herald, parties have come up with an acceptable "plan of attack" for addressing this problem and expediting a safe and acceptable solution.

Where is Halon Used?

- Fixed total flooding fire extinguishing systems

- Streaming applications (handheld extinguishers)

- Lavatory trash receptacle fire protection

- Engine nacelle/auxiliary power unit protection systems

- Cargo compartment extinguishing systems

pay a bargain basement price and have it only break 2 days later. Sure, who doesn't like a good, inexpensive price? But, personally - don't you like great service more?

I am proud to honestly say that we here at Wesco strive to offer you both, and will continue to offer you outstanding, reliable service, while still maintaining a competitive price. I could go on and on into the economics of the situations and supply and demand and all that stuff - but I'll spare you (partly because I slept through Economics class, but that's besides the point).

It IS possible to offer superior service and maintain a reasonable, competitive price. That's what Wesco is here to do.

It IS possible to offer superior service and maintain a reasonable, competitive price. That's what Wesco is here to do. We do the job. We do the job RIGHT. And we leave you with money in your pocket. Whether we are buying your old halon 1211 extinguishers, recharging a Fike system, or hydrotesting some halon 1301 bottles, you can be sure that we stand by this year, and every past year's New Year's Resolution: Do the job, do it right, do it well - in all forums possible.

So What's Next? Aircrafts and Halon Options

The worst case scenario in all this - having aircrafts grounded as a result of non existent halon supplies, or regulations barring halon use indefinitely - is unlikely to happen. But that doesn't mean that regulatory authorities aren't going to begin to start pushing the aviation industry to shorten the timeframe for the transition away from halon. Here is what the parties to the Montreal Protocol, and technical advisors plan to do (the following is taken word for word from the ICAO Journal, Volume 60, Number 6):

- The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Halons Technical Options Committee (HTOC) will use its expertise to make a best estimate of the available halon supply, costs, and current emissions rate. These data will be given to ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organization) for distribution to its member States

- ICAO will issue a State Letter to member States in 2006, inviting them to require the use of proven alternatives in new aircraft designs to the extent practicable

- The ICAO Secretariat will introduce an ICAO/HTOC working paper on the subject of phasing out halons at the next regular session of the ICAO Assembly in 2007

- If the ICAO Assembly endorses the working paper's recommendation to use alternatives in new aircraft designs where practicable, States will then be required to use halon alternatives for identified applications in new airframe designs first certified on or after January 1, 2009.

Upcoming Events February 2006

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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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26	27	28				

1st - 3rd - 10th Fire Suppression & Detection Research Application Symposium (www.nfpa.org)

4th - 8th - FSSA Annual Meeting (www.fssa.net)

14th - Valentine's Day

20th - President's Day

25th - Chrissy Kosturski's Birthday (aka the editor-in-chief)

A Hearty Wesco Welcome to Shannon Esopenko!



Wesco HMB, Inc. is proud to introduce its newest employee, Shannon Esopenko, who will be working out of Wesco's Dallas office!

Shannon comes to us with an extensive background in sales of fire suppression chemicals, having worked throughout the country in her previous jobs (one of which was Chemguard, Inc. in Mansfield, TX). With Wesco, she will be handling sales accounts as our newest National Account Executive. You can count on Shannon to provide a friendly and highly knowledgeable demeanor in any foam, powder, halon, or clean agent sale or purchase. We are proud and confident to say that Shannon "really knows her stuff"!

We're thrilled to welcome Shannon aboard and look forward to giving you the opportunity to meet and speak with her!

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.

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

Wesco Oxygen: Friend of Cats Everywhere

As our regular readers will know Wesco HMB, Inc. had spawned a new company a few years ago, Wesco Oxygen, which fills and delivers oxygen tanks for home healthcare companies and doctors. Late one day last week we received a phone call from a veterinarian who had just finished operating on a kitten. The post-op procedure called for the kitten to be exposed to pure oxygen for a 24 hour period. Since kitten size hyperbaric chambers are hard to come by in Central Jersey, he called Wesco Oxygen to see if we could help him assemble a small enclosed chamber and provide the oxygen. He had tried all the oxygen companies in the area, and none of them had the time or the inclination to help poor Kringle.

Of course – how could we say no? The vet sped over on a Friday evening to pick up the cylinder. Thankfully, Kringle survived through the weekend, and – at last report - is back to chasing balls of yarn, catnip toys and just enjoying life! A big thanks to Wesco Oxygen, for adding one more life onto this kitty's 9 others!



*This Valentine's Day,
let Wesco be your Valentine.*

We Buy & Sell

Halon 1301

Halon 1211

HFC-227ea

Call 1-800-433-1751

Halon alternatives have passed the relevant minimum performance standards in most civil aviation applications, but the barrier that remains is the governing and approving parties (FCC, EPA, etc.) making this transition a priority. It does not need to be said that much red tape needs to be cut through to get an application such as the ones described in this article ratified, and the longer it takes, the more of a default the aviation industry is at.

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The Halon Herald Monthly Contest

Congratulations to last month's winners in the Trivia Contest!

Jeff Robinson, ABCO Fire, Cleveland, OH
Kyle Beaudry, United Fire, Tampa, FL

This month's contest is a little different. We are asking for each participant to **email the editor with 3 email addresses of coworkers or contacts that you think would benefit from receiving the Halon Herald**. The recipients must have a valid email address and not currently be receiving the Halon Herald in order for you to be eligible. Once we verify this information, your name will be entered into a drawing for a \$150 American Express gift card – a pretty nice gift to help you with any Valentine's Day presents you may need to buy (or birthday presents – the editor-in-chief's birthday is Feb 25th, and she is currently accepting any and all gifts)! Only **one** winner will be chosen.

Once again, in order to be entered into this lucrative drawing, please email us [here](#) with 3 valid email addresses of coworkers, contacts, or friends who deal in the fire suppression industry and that you think can benefit from receiving the Halon Herald. Once we verify the addresses, you will be placed in a pool of participants for a drawing for a \$150 Amex gift card.

The drawing will be held on Feb. 6th, 2005, and we can assure you that you will receive your gift card by Feb. 13th. Good luck!