

The Halon Herald

News from the halon & clean agent world

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Chrissy George, Editor-in-Chief

Bhutan Fights to Save Ozone Layer

In compliance with the Montreal Protocol, Bhutan was supposed to decrease its annual ozone depleting substances (ODS) imports by 50%. However, Bhutan has exceeded this goal and was proud to announce that ODS imports were decreased by 72%.

This was made possible by a ban on ODS based equipment (like refrigerators or deep freezers, for example). Enforcing the law was possible on a governmental level, the problem was enforcing it on a household basis. Several homes still have refrigerators and other equipment that used ODS. These households would continue using the appliance until it broken.

**"With the introduction of household appliances not supporting CFC in the market, and retrofitting those old equipment using CFC, we have been able to reduce ODS by a great deal."
-Ritu Raj**

Ritu Raj, the head of the natural ozone unit under the National Environment Commission, reports, "With the introduction of household appliances not supporting CFC in the market, and retrofitting those old equipment using CFC, we have been able to reduce ODS by a great deal."

Bhutan is a lower consuming country, meaning it only uses less than 30 tonnes a year. However, this significant reduction to the world's ozone layer overall will make an impact for the future. We here at Wesco applaud Bhutan for its efforts!

The Air Up There: Discussion Over?

by John Demeter

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



I consider myself a chatterbox. I always have something to say about the weather, entertainment gossip, the news, you name it. Rarely do I suffer from "talker's block" (if there is such a thing).

However, I DO suffer from "writer's block". And this is one of those times.

I racked my brains for something to write about in my column this month. I thought about it while driving home on my commute (which stinks, by the way). I thought about it while eating lunch, while sitting at my desk, while drying my hair...I thought about it.

I don't think you guys want to read about my thoughts on Britney's shaved head (scary), or American Idol (Blake all the way), or the storms in Kansas and the wildfires in California and Florida (so sad though...my prayers go out to the families affected by these disasters). I want to talk about halon, FM-200, Wesco.

But I could not come up with anything. So instead, I'll make some little points, instead of one big fat point.

Point #1: We're going to be at the Indianapolis NAFED show this week. Come by! We're giving out warm, fresh baked cookies, and an iPod and accessories!

Point #2: We've upped the ante on our competitive pricing on buying and selling Halon 1301, halon1 211, and FM-200. You can be sure that when you call Wesco for pricing, you're getting the most up to date, competitive pricing based on the market each and every day. We don't have base pricing for everyone, we take into consideration many different factors. Because our customers aren't all the same, why have blanket pricing for everyone? We match competitor pricing also!

Point #3: John Demeter likes when people read and



We like California. We really do! We don't mind that the ocean is on the wrong side of the road or that the mountains are brown instead of green (at least in Southern California). The Golden State has given Americans and the world many wonderful things – world class wine, an enviable climate, the great San Francisco 49er teams of the 1980's, and, one could argue, the home to the birth of both commercial aviation and the computer revolution – two industries that are dear to our hearts.

California is cutting edge! Things start there and move eastward. That's why we weren't surprised when Gov. Schwarzenegger signed landmark legislation to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions back in September 2006. We happen to like Schwarzenegger and while we're not total skeptics on Global Warming (the world is getting warmer and we probably have something to do with it) we don't like being told "discussion over" on a subject this complex. Nevertheless, it seems to Californians it is "discussion over"! Not only is it over, but the California Air Resources Board (CARB) is moving forward quickly to put together a series of "early action measures" (enforceable by 2010) and long term goals to reduce Green House Gases to below California's 1990 baseline (how they can possibly measure this is beyond our pay grade).

CARB is not an organization at which to shrug your shoulders. They mean business and will undoubtedly come up with regulations that will affect just about every aspect of California life – business and otherwise. That's why the fire protection industry took note when HFC227ea (FM200 if you're a Chemtura customer or FE227 if you buy from DuPont) was identified as one of several "simple fixes" to help reduce global warming. Eliminate HFC227 and you're on your way to solving the global warming problem!! Right? Well, not so fast. Yes, HFC227 is a global warmer but not only is the amount ever emitted into the atmosphere infinitesimal, it was developed to replace halon 1301 which is a significantly greater global warmer.

We suspect that HFC227 showing up on CARB's radar screen has more to do with business competition than with the environment. Let's hope that in the end the California authorities will find other ways to reach their GHG goals without banning a product that does more good than harm.

Achoo! The What's of Seasonal Allergies

comment on his column. So read. And comment on it. We'll publish your thoughts anonymously if you'd like!

Point #4: It's getting to be summer! Go outside and enjoy the warm sunny weather!

Point #5: Writers block STINKS.

Have a great month guys, and hopefully I will think of more to say in next month's column!!

Boeing & Virgin Atlantic Announce 787 Order & Environmental Partnership

Virgin Atlantic has placed an order for 15 787-9 Dreamliners, the largest order from Europe to date.

"Virgin Atlantic is pleased to introduce the Boeing 787 Dreamliner as our aircraft of the future," reports Steve Ridgway, CEO of Virgin Atlantic. "This revolutionary aircraft will bring a step change to the industry, substantially reducing environmental impact and incorporating innovative design and advanced technology, while providing an enhanced flying experience for our passengers."

A demonstration of a joint biofuel aimed at developing sustainable fuel sources for commercial jets has also been planned. This is a part of the environmental partnership between Virgin Atlantic and Boeing, also including help from GE Aviation and Virgin Fuels.

Boeing and Virgin are also working together to reduce fuel burn and cut aircraft emissions via alternatives aircraft operations on ground. Goals include reducing fuel consumption, carbon emissions, and overall community noise by 50%. So far they have had trials at London's Heathrow Airport and San Francisco International Airport, with positive results.

"Virgin Atlantic has demonstrated extraordinary leadership within our industry on addressing environmental impact, and Boeing is proud that the 787 Dreamliner is such an important ingredient of the airline's plan for the future," said Scott Carson, president and chief executive officer, Boeing Commercial Airplanes. "Working together in partnership, Boeing and Virgin Atlantic will develop innovative, environmentally progressive solutions to provide greater fuel efficiency and lower aircraft emissions."

For more information on this article, please visit the news release found [here](#) on the Boeing web site.

Recipe of the Month!

This is a low fat one, from the Weight Watchers website. Just in time for Cinco de Mayo! Enjoy!

This recipe was taken from Weight Watchers - full text of the recipe and its originating site can be seen [here](#)

Layered Mexican Chicken

Upcoming Events

May 2007

		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		

- 11th - 12th** - NAFED 3rd Regional Conference - Indianapolis, IN (www.nafed.org)
- 13th** - Mother's Day
- 19th** - Armed Forces Day
- 28th** - Memorial Day

Upcoming Events

June 2007

					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 - 7th - NFPA World Safety Conference - Boston, MA (www.nfpa.org)

14th - Flag Day

17th - Father's Day

21st - Summer Solstice

Upcoming Events

July 2007

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				

4th - Independence Day

14th - Bastille Day

24th - 26th - NFPA

Americas Show - Miami, FL (www.nfpa.org)

Bless you! Seasonal allergies usually come to a head about this time, if you live near an allergy prone area. The Halon Herald is here to bring you some facts about seasonal allergies - how to get through them so you can stop and smell the flowers...without sneezing.

Hay Fever affects 10% - 20% of the US population.

Allergice rhinitis, or hayfever, is an allergic reaction to pollen, mold, dander, feathers, or other allergen. It causes the body's immune system to, for some reason, see the allergen as an invader and releases a chemical called a "histamine" into the bloodstream. This is what causes the sniffing, sneezing, stuffy head feeling.

Common triggers. Wind, time, temperature, trees, leaves, clothing, stinging insects, flowers, animals, food, and grass all trigger allergic reactions. Each of these triggers are pertinent to certain allergens; please see [Web MD](#) for full information.

Top Towns for Clean Air. Air pollution plays a major role in seasonal allergies. The top three cleanest air cities are Cheyenne, WY, Santa-Fe, NM, and Honolulu, HI. The top three dirtiest cities are Los Angeles, CA, Bakersfield, CA, and Pittsburgh, PA. Check out the full list [here](#)

Flowers and Flowering trees/plants don't cause that much seasonal allergies. According to Dr. Paul Enright, MD, flowering trees and plants don't generate that much airborne pollen. Plants, weeds, grass, and trees without flowers are the culprits. Another reason to hate those weeds in the garden - they make you sneeze!

What's the best way to fight the allergy battle?

Antihistamines, nose sprays, eye drops, etc. Get thee to an allergist and s/he will prescribe something specific to your symptoms. In the future, pre-treatment is usually a good course. Start taking nose sprays before the season actually starts, and they will build up in your system.

Good luck! I know the feeling, I am an allergy sufferer. But with regular visits to your allergist and avoiding triggers, the springtime doesn't have to be too - achool! - bless me - annoying.

Happy Earth Day!

On April 22, 1970, America celebrated the first Earth Day. Now, Earth Day is celebrated by billions throughout the entire world, a world in which cities are no longer covered under smog or polluted rivers catch ablaze - we're all worked towards getting out of that place. Check out the link below, brought to you by the U.S. EPA, for more information and "fun stuff" to celebrate Earth Day!

[EPA & Earth Day!](#)

The Earth's welfare is important every day, not just on April 22. Please make it a point to do all that you can to help preserve the Earth. Wesco believes that one person CAN make a difference!

Ingredients:

1 sprays olive oil cooking spray
2 pound uncooked boneless, skinless chicken breast
30 oz canned black beans, rinsed and drained
3 cup fat-free sour cream
2 cup shredded reduced-fat Mexican-style cheese, divided
8 oz chopped green chilies, two 4-oz cans
2 tsp ground cumin
1/2 tsp black pepper
12 medium corn tortilla(s), cut into 2-inch strips
cup salsa, mild, medium or hot

Preheat oven to 350°F. Coat a lasagna pan with cooking spray.

Place chicken in medium saucepan and fill with enough cold water just to cover chicken. Set pan over high heat and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to medium and simmer until chicken is cooked through, about 10 minutes; drain. When chicken is cool enough to handle, cut into 1-inch pieces.

Transfer chicken to a large bowl and add beans, sour cream, 1 cup of shredded cheese, chilies, cumin, and pepper; mix well and set aside.

Arrange half of tortillas in bottom of prepared lasagna pan, overlapping pieces to cover surface. Top tortillas with half of chicken mixture, layer with remaining tortillas and then top with remaining chicken mixture. Sprinkle with remaining cup of cheese.

Bake until filling is bubbly and cheese is melted, about 30 minutes. Let stand 5 minutes before slicing into 12 pieces. Serve with salsa on the side.

Trivia Time!

Congrats to last month's winner!!

Our Main Winner: Brett Heitz, Fireboy-Xintex, Inc. This month's questions focus on the city of Brooklyn. The first 2 winners to email us with the correct answer will each get a \$50 American Express Gift card. Remember, if you have won within the last 3 months you are not eligible. Good luck!

- What education "first" happened in Brooklyn?

GOOD LUCK!

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