

The Halon Herald

News from the halon & clean agent world

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What's Inside...

October/November
2008

Vol. 5 Issue 2

A Double Issue!

The Air Up There -
J. Demeter

Recipe of the Month

Happy Birthday Halon
Herald!

Michigan Fire
Legislature

Upcoming Meetings

The Halon Herald
c/o Wesco HMB
108 Liberty St.
Metuchen, NJ 08840

[Click here](#) to email us

Chrissy George, Editor-

Michigan Discusses Unnecessary Certification

This issue just does not seem to go away.

New Jersey lawmakers, under the guise of public safety, have been considering legislation that would require an apprenticeship training program for fire protection equipment installers, adding additional, unnecessary certifications and causing a time and monetary burden on individual installers and companies as well as the economy. [This NJ legislation](#) would create another ADVISORY BOARD, this one populated with union fitters, that would determine the fitness of the existing work force to be grandfathered from this bill.

Additionally, this bill has a provision that would license plumbers for fire suppression work. The bill has been contested by various members of the fire suppression community, with the New Jersey Association of Fire Equipment Distributors (NJAFED) having one of the leadership roles. It has been put on hold for now in NJ, unfortunately, other states are starting to bring up.

At press time, Michigan fire installers could be facing a similar fate. While currently exempt, Michigan industry insiders fear that installers could be added before votes are taken on legislation that would add a level of "unionization" on the industry. The legislation, introduced into the MI House by Representative Gino Polidori, can be found [here](#). The introduction reads as follows: "A bill to regulate certain activities involving fire sprinkler and fire suppression systems; to establish certain licensing and endorsement standards; to provide for certain powers and duties for certain state agencies; to create certain boards; to create a fund for certain purposes and to impose certain fees; and to provide for certain penalties and remedies."

Why are most installers concerned about this? Well, in short, it builds an unnecessary burden on them. In the state of Michigan, installers' certifications and training are covered under the Bureau of Construction Codes, Mechanical Division. This Division licenses fire suppression contractors, requires the submittal of plans for review, requires permits be obtained for installations, and conducts inspections of the

Chrissy's Corner

Randomness from the Editor-in-Chief



HAPPY BIRTHDAY HALON HERALD!!

Yes, that's right - the issue you are reading right now is the first issue of our 5th year. The HH has been around since 2004 - wow.

While stylistically, we have only evolved once, I promise you that big changes are coming. A completely new layout will accompany our issues in the second half of the year. And, trust me, we're going to introduce that new layout in a big way. My lips are sealed about that, though, for now!

Working on the HH every month is a joy for me. In addition to my other duties for Wesco, I can truly say that from its birth, the HH has been my baby, and solely my baby. We have guest columnists from time to time, but I am proud to say that before this newsletter hits the web-waves, it goes through my fine tooth comb first. With our last issue of the year last month, came a huge milestone, where we doubled our readership. DOUBLED. Needless to say, we were thrilled.

I'd like to invite all of you to take a minute to check out the first issue of the HH, and reminisce with me. I think we have grown in different ways, and while the layout may not have diverted too much from 2004, the work, writing, articles, subjects, and readers have all helped make the past 4 years thrilling in the world of the HH.

Check out [our very first issue](#) and reminisce a little with me. Our 5th year is going to be the best one yet - big things are coming, my readers - wait and see!

in-Chief

completed projects. If this legislation gets passed, installers will have to presumably contend with not only the original Bureau of Construction Codes (BCC) regulations, but now an additional fee, training time, classes, etc., through the state. With this new state agency, the power is taken away from the BCC, and will most certainly cause problems with double licensing by 2 agencies that are interconnected. Why the need for this added expense, time, and stress? WHO really benefits? New Jersey has similar existing regulations.

Upcoming Events

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October 2008

- 7th - [NFPA Webinar](#)
- 9th - Yom Kippur
- 9th - [NFPA Webinar](#)
- 13th - Columbus Day
- 15th - [NFPA Webinar](#)
- 21st - [NFPA Webinar](#)
- 23rd - [NFPA Webinar](#)
- 28th - [NFPA Webinar](#)
- 31st - Boo! Halloween

Upcoming Events

November 2008

- 4th - Election Day
- 9th - Yom Kippur
- 11th - Veteran's Day
- 12th - 14th - [NFPA Mexico Fire and Safety Expo](#)
- 19th - 20th - [FAA Fire Systems Division Meeting](#), Atlantic City, NJ
- 27th - Thanksgiving

Thankfully, this legislation has been tabled for the time being. The Fire Suppression Systems Association (FSSA) is currently working with installers in Michigan to come up with an alternate plan to please all the involved parties. Once we have new information, we will be sure to publish it.

While this is specifically a Michigan legislation we are discussing in this article, it's safe to say that, judging from the Sweeney bill in N.J., and a similarly vetoed bill in New York by former Gov. Spitzer, legislations such as these are popping up throughout the country in individual state houses. We urge our readers to stay attuned to their state legislations, and be sure to assist your state fire organizations to explain the needs of sprinkler installers if the case arises.

The Air Up There:
Homer Nods* (Sort of)

by John Demeter



Seems our last column created quite a stir. It must have been the use of the word "kill" in the subject line. Proof that the old media maxim "if it bleeds it leads" holds true more than ever, last month was our widest read Halon Herald in our 4 years of publication. A hearty "Thank You" to all of our readers.

One of the responses came from our friends at

HAPPY BIRTHDAY HALON HERALD!

Thanks for reading,



Wesco, Haven Fire (Dubai) Sign Agreement

Wesco is pleased to announce that it has recently signed a long-term agreement with Haven Fire and Safety L.L.C. (Dubai, UAE) for the supply of halon 1301 and halon 1211.

Wesco HMB, Inc. a U.S. corporation based in Metuchen, NJ, is engaged in the business of "clean agent" fire protection recycling. While the company deals with all "clean agents", its main focus is on Halon 1301, Halon 1211 and FM200.

Wesco's client base in the US and Europe are classified as essential users under both the Montreal Protocol and European Regulation EC2037/2000 covering the use of substances that deplete the ozone layer.

Wesco, the largest importer of halon into the United States, has been importing halons for over ten years and has strong working relations with environmental authorities in numerous countries. Wesco works closely with the US Environmental Protection Agency.

Haven Fire and Safety, LLC based in the UAE is a leading fire protection, engineering, supply and service company in the Middle East. In addition to offering fire protection equipment and services, Haven operates a comprehensive Halon Management Phase out Service for existing halon users and has established itself as a main focal point for halon collection activities in the region.

Haven has access to supplies of halon within the UAE as well as other countries in the Middle East. Haven also has the ability, equipment, technical resources and experience to recycle, store and ship halon.

Wesco has a long-term market for halon and is interested in acquiring as much as possible originating from system removals in the Middle East.

American Pacific, manufacturers of Halotron I, who took exception to our reference that the U.L. decision to withdraw its standard for halon 1211 fire extinguishers leaves the industry with two alternatives fire fighting agents – one a “global warmer” and one a Class II ozone depleting substance with a scheduled phase out date of 2015. Specifically we asked U.L. (somewhat sarcastically we might add) the following question:

There are two FAA approved replacement gases for halon 1211. One is a Class II ozone depleting substances scheduled for elimination under the Montreal Protocol in 2015. The other is a serious global warmer. Will UL be pulling these products anytime soon?

You can read the entire article [here](#), and the [UL memo that started it all](#).

While we didn't identify Halotron I specifically, it was clear to many readers that Halotron was the ODS to which we referred. This drew a rebuke from American Pacific who said, quite accurately, that Halotron was **not listed as a Class II ODS and not listed for phase out in 2015 under the Montreal Protocol**.

Their response, in part, said the following:

“The Phase Out date of January 1, 2015 does not affect Halotron I’s use in existing extinguishers.” Further, they said, “Halotron I can be made from recycled or existing inventories of HCFC-123. There are no restrictions on the use of recycled or then existing HCFC-123 for the manufacturing of Halotron I.”

We stand corrected. Halotron is not a Class II ODS scheduled for phase out in 2015. Halotron I can be manufactured from recycled HCFC-123 or from HCFC-23 stocks that have existed prior to the phase out date. (We like the recycled part!). **It would have been more accurate to say that HCFC – an ingredient in Halotron I – will not be manufactured after 2015.** Homer nods.

* For those of you unfamiliar with the expression Homer Nods, check out [its Wikipedia entry](#).

Recipe of the Month!

Ok, so it's easy to see that I am a Rachael Ray buff. I admit it, I'm a sucker for a recipe that

Both companies are looking forward to a long and mutually beneficial partnership.

Russian Submarine Disaster

We heard about this disaster as we were creating this month's double issue of the Halon Herald, and felt it necessary to report on. The submarine's fire suppression system detonated accidentally, causing freon gas to be released into the confined space, killing 20 people and injuring 21 others, with varying degrees of poisoning.

The full text of the article can be read [here](#).

Ansul Price Increase

We're sorry - no one likes to read those words. Unfortunately though, as a result of this lousy economy, Ansul is raising their list prices on foams, dry chemicals, and other products and services. Concurrently, we will also have to raise our prices as well.

If you are interested in obtaining an updated price sheet for foams, please contact Heather Mastrull or Shannon Esopenko, our sales account representatives.

Upcoming Meetings

November 12-14 - [NFPA Mexico Fire and Safety Expo](#)

November 19-20 - [FAA Fire Systems Division Meeting](#)

January 18-20 - [Intersec Expo & Trade Show](#)

February 28-March 3 - [FSSA Annual Forum](#)

March 6-7 - [NAFED Regional Meeting](#)

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

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

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

promises to take only 30 minutes. The recipe below not only takes a mere 30 minutes from start to finish, it can be made with ingredients that can be found in a convenience store, or a "hole-in-the-wall" supermarket. Not to mention, it sounds and looks tasty, perfect for those chilly nights when soup just won't cut it. Enjoy!

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

Corn Dog Chili

- * 2 tablespoons EVOO – Extra Virgin Olive Oil, plus additional
- * 1 pound all-beef (or any kind you prefer) hot dogs, chopped
- * 2 pounds ground sirloin (or any type of chop meat you prefer)
- * 1 large onion, chopped
- * 3 cloves garlic, finely chopped or grated
- * 2 jalapeño peppers, seeded and chopped
- * 1/4 cup tomato paste
- * 2 tablespoons chili powder
- * 1 tablespoon smoked paprika
- * 3 cups beef stock
- * Salt and ground black pepper
- * 1 box cornbread mix, such as Jiffy brand
- * 1/4 cup spicy brown mustard
- * 2/3 cup milk
- * 2 tablespoons butter, melted
- * 1 egg

Yields: 6 servings

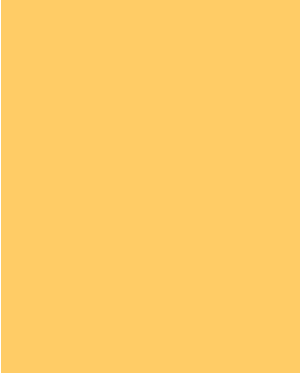
Place a large saucepan over medium-high heat with 2 turns of the pan of EVOO, about 2 tablespoons. Add the chopped hot dogs to the pan and cook until brown, about 3-4 minutes. Remove and reserve hot dogs.

Add the sirloin to the same pan and cook until golden brown and cooked through, 6-7 minutes. Add the onions, garlic and jalapeño to the pan, and cook until tender, 5-6 minutes.

Add the reserved hot dogs back to the pan along with tomato paste, chili powder and paprika, and cook until deep red and aromatic, about 30 seconds. Stir in the beef stock, adjust the seasoning with salt and pepper, and bring the liquid to a bubble. Reduce the heat to medium and simmer until thickened slightly, about 5 minutes.

While the chili is thickening, place a large skillet or griddle pan over medium heat with a little EVOO or a spray of cooking spray. In a medium-size mixing bowl, whisk together the cornbread mix, mustard, milk, melted butter and eggs so it's the consistency of pancake batter.

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milk, melted butter and eggs so it's the consistency of pancake batter.

Ladle the batter, about 1/4 cup at a time, into the pan to make griddle cakes. Cook until bubbles burst on the raw side and the edges begin to dry, 3-4 minutes. Flip the cakes and cook another minute until done. Reserve cooked cakes on a plate until the whole batch is cooked.

Serve the chili topped with the griddle cakes.