

The Halon Herald

News from the halon & clean agent world

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September 2008

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Chrissy George, Editor-

FSSA Creates Public Policy Committee

The FSSA Board of Directors has implemented a Public Policy Committee. to provide assistance and aid in the fire suppression industry's public policy efforts. The committee will also track trends, changes, and aspects of public policies, issues, and concerns brought the country that apply to FSSA members and those in the fire suppression industry.

Shawn Mullen, FSSA President declared, "This is an important new committee. It will assist the Board in showing how FSSA can anticipate and adjust to public policy trends. As we know, there are many more societal pressures affecting our industry, and FSSA needs to be prepared. This is a good, solid step for us to take."

For more information, please visit the [FSSA homepage](#).

The Air Up There:

by John Demeter



Young Jenny Curran: "Are you stupid or something?"

Chrissy's Corner

Randomness from the Editor-in-Chief



I'm not much good at keeping secrets. I tend to get so excited about secrets that they just happen to melt out of my mouth by "accident". Christmas, birthday, anniversary, etc. presents - I'm notorious for getting SO excited about the surprise that I slip the surprise.

I only blab (I think blab is a harsh word) the GOOD secrets. I don't go around telling deep, dark, touchy secrets of friends, families, or even enemies. If you say to me, "Don't tell anyone this," , I won't. But when it comes to exciting surprises that yours truly is behind, I just get too excited to keep it to myself.

That's why I am trying REALLY HARD not to let an exciting plan that Wesco has to commemorate the Halon Herald slip out. October 2008 marks the 4th birthday of this newsletter, and the year 2009 will bring BIG changes. We've decided not to mark our BIRTHDAY with the monumental changes and celebrations we have planned, but to commemorate these changes in 2009 instead, with an opportunity to share the celebration with our readers.

We're quirky like that.

Luckily, I am much better at keeping secrets via type and print than in person in voice. SO, my lips are sealed. That's the only teaser you will get from me. 2009 is going to mark big changes for the Halon Herald in a big way, involving all of our readers. How?

Well, you'll just have t wait to find out. I CAN tell you, it's big. Exciting. And TONS of fun.

in-Chief

Upcoming Events

Upcoming Events

September 2008

		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 - Labor Day
- 9th - 10th - [NAFED Seminars in NJ](#)
- 14th - 23rd - [International Code Council Annual Conference and Final Action Code Development Hearings](#), Minneapolis, MN
- 23rd - 24th - [NAFED Seminars in GA](#)
- 30th - Rosh Hashana

Upcoming Events

October 2008

		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			

- 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

Forrest Gump: "Momma always says, 'Stupid is as Stupid does!'"

I'm sure you remember the scene. A young Forrest Gump climbs aboard the school bus for the first time, walks down the aisle looking for a seat and is rejected by several boys sitting alone. "Can't sit here!" was the common reaction to the different looking kid wearing leg braces. Finally, nearing the back of the bus, Jenny Curran, who Forrest would later describe as "the most beautiful girl in the world", offers Forrest the empty seat next to her. After brief introductions and a few awkward moments, Jenny says to Forrest, "Are you stupid or something?"

Funny, but that was exactly our thought when we read the memo from Underwriters Laboratories announcing that they were withdrawing the 5th Edition of the Standard for Halogenated Fire Extinguishers (UL 1093) and all the listings under that Standard on September 29, 2009. You can read the full memo [here](#). This means that in a little less than a year, U.L. will no longer recognize a hand portable halon 1211 fire extinguisher. This, of course, has serious ramifications because most authorizing bodies (or AHJ's – Authorities Having Jurisdiction) require a UL Listing mark on safety items that they specify. This would include FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) who establish rules for airline safety. The commercial aviation industry uses some – but not a lot – of halon 1211 in portable fire extinguishers on their planes.

The UL memo states, "The lack of halogen agent extinguishing availability as a result of the Montreal Protocol was expected to eliminate the production of halogen agent fire extinguishers by 2007." One thing that's obvious is that the decision makers at UL are not regular readers of the Halon Herald or this column. If they were they would know that there is no real lack of halon 1211 in the world. In fact, according to the latest HTOC studies the "world bank" of halon 1211 totals 90,000 metric tons! (Yes, that's right – 90,000 metric tons!!). In terms of total consumption of halon 1211 by the commercial aviation industry that would be enough halon for 6,600 years!! So much for lack of availability!

No, it's not a matter of halon's availability. There is plenty of halon 1211 around. If you read further down in UL memo we learn that the FAA along with the EPA have been "encouraging" the aviation industry to move away from extinguishers using halons. Not because of airline safety, which the FAA is supposed to promote. Not because of environmental safety, which the EPA supposed to promote. Not because of product safety, which U.L. is supposed to promote. It's because – well, we're not quite sure. So, we thought, before we reached a conclusion, we thought we'd pose a few questions to U.L.

1. Did UL ask anyone in the commercial aviation industry – the people who build and fly the planes

Otherwise - my lips are sealed. For the time being, at least.

Thanks for reading,



Service in America Medal:
Dr. Stephen O. Andersen

The Service in America Career Achievement Award recognizes those federal employees that offer lifetime commitment and service to public policy and service. This year/s recipient is Dr. Stephen O. Andersen, from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Dr. Andersen is the director of the Strategic Climate Projects and played a key role in implementing the ever vital Montreal Protocol in efforts to repair and maintain the ozone layer and our atmosphere by regulating and phasing out 95% of the world's ozone depleting substances.

Dr. Andersen's entire Service in America profile, including a video, is at the below address. join us in learning about this crusader for climate change at the [Service in America 2008 Career Achievement Medal Recipient Site](#). We congratulate and recognize Dr. Andersen and his invaluable dedication and involvement in securing our climate and environment for the future. thank you, and congrats, Dr. Andersen!

HARC Update:

FSSA Annunciator

FSSA Annunciator's newsletter reported on HARC's meeting this month. The text below is directly from FSSA Annunciator, and Wesco accepts no responsibility nor credit for this article.

HARC Notes:

EPA:

and have the most to risk -what they thought of this idea?

2. Did UL ask anyone in the fire protection industry or the halon recycling industry – the people who provide the halon and build the fire extinguishers that protect the planes – what they thought of this idea?

3. Since no one else has been able to tell us, does U.L have any idea what we should do with 90,000 metric tons of halon 1211 around the world (and probably enough in the U.S. to support commercial aviation for 10 years.) sitting in rusting portable fire extinguishers waiting to discharge into the atmosphere? And if the answer is to destroy it, will UL be willing to fund all or part of the 500 million dollars that it will cost?

4. U.L.'s motto used to be "Testing for Public Safety". Is there a safety issue involved in halon 1211 fire extinguishers? If so, shouldn't the public know?

5. 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?

Trivia Time:

So What DOES Novec 1230 Stand For?
The Answer!

Last month we asked where the name Novec 230" came for. Is it an acronym? An urban legend? Is there a hidden story as to WHY 3M chose this name?

Unfortunately, no one got the correct answer. However, we went direct to the source to find the real meaning behind the name. The following quote is the from Joe Ziemba, of 3M:

"Novec is a registered trademark of 3M Company. The Novec brand is used on products designed to help ensure worker safety, environmental acceptability and optimum performance. Although their chemistries may vary, all Novec branded products offer low toxicity, zero ozone depletion potential, low global warming potential and short atmospheric lifetimes. The number 1230 is used to signify a specific product code - many 3M products have a product code number assigned; 1230 is also a reference to the date Paul Rivers, one of the principle inventors of Novec 1230 fluid, started at

EPA is expecting to publish Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in the Federal Register during 2009 regarding the SNAP listing of CO2 reflective of changes in NFPA 12. It appears that marine applications remain a concern.

EPA has commissioned a paper, "The Adequacy of Guidance on Agent Concentrations in Standards for Gaseous Fire Extinguishing Systems." Hughes Associates is working on this paper. The objective is to "provide information and guidance on a technical basis of selection of fire extinguishing system concentrations for gaseous alternatives to halons." EPA intends to present this paper to NFPA 2001 technical committee.

California Air Resources Board Notes:

CARB continues study of possible reduction strategies for Green House Gas (GHG) emissions from fire extinguishing systems. CARB's stated objectives:

- Developing a draft white paper on the fire protection issue. The white paper will reference industry programs such as V COP/HEEP.
- Plan to create a working group of key fire protection stakeholders in fall 2008 - HARC and some members will participate to review and edit white paper
- Clearinghouse of technological options for reducing emissions of non - CO2 GHGs now available as a resource on CARB website.
- Water mist and inert gases are listed as alternatives to high GWP agents.
- Summary documents contain very little information and are outdated.
- CARB has contracted with IRTA, Katy Wolf, to inventory high GWP gases installed in fire protection systems in California. HARC will cooperate with equipment manufacturers and key CA installers.

Minnesota HFC Reporting Law:

- Beginning October 1, 2008, a person in Minnesota who purchases 500 metric tons or more CO2 equivalent of a high-GWP gas (for example, 380 pounds of HFC-227ea) must report the amount and purpose for which the gas was used.
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is responsible for implementing the reporting program.
- MPCA interprets the law to apply to the "raw bulk" gas – not gas purchased as part of a piece of equipment. For example, if you buy a quantity of refrigerant gas with GWP equivalent of 500 metric tons of CO2, reporting is required. If you buy 50 refrigerators that contain a like amount of refrigerant gas, reporting is not required.

Federal Climate Change Legislation: -

- Consideration of Federal, economy-wide climate legislation is likely over for this year.
- On July 30 EPA published for public comment an advanced notice of proposed rulemaking (ANPR) on the regulation of greenhouse gases (GHGs) under the Clean Air Act:
- ANPR responds to the Supreme Court decision in

3M. Since the number was available to use for this product, the team decided to use it."

Thanks to Joe Ziemba, from 3M, for clearing things up for us!

Recipe of the Month!

I saw this recipe on the Rachael Ray show, and just HAD to try it. Last night's side dish was a hit! Try these as a dinner side dish or as a lunch, paired with a salad - so tasty!

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

1 box (2 sheets) puff pastry, defrosted if frozen
All-purpose flour, for dusting
6 boiling onions, about 2 inches in diameter
2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
2 tablespoons grill seasoning
3 tablespoons brown sugar
2 tablespoons thyme, chopped
1 1/2 cups shredded Gruyere cheese, divided
2 egg yolks
1 tablespoon water or milk

Preheat oven to 400°F.
Dust a countertop lightly with flour and lay one sheet of puff pastry down. Roll the dough out lightly until it measures approximately 10x12". Cut the sheet in half lengthwise, then cut each piece into thirds widthwise, leaving you with 6 portions. Repeat with the other sheet of puff pastry.

Cut the tail and root off from each onion and peel them, leaving the onion intact. Make two deep cuts into the top of the onion to form an X, , taking care to cut only three-quarters of the way through the onion. Arrange the onions cut side up on a plate and sprinkle the Worcestershire, grill seasoning, brown sugar, thyme and a little cheese evenly over each one. Transfer each onion to a square of puff dough.

In a small bowl, whisk the egg yolks with splash of water or milk. Brush the border of each puff pastry square with an onion on it lightly with the egg wash. Lay another piece of pastry over the top. Try to keep out as much as air possible, you really want to hug the onion.

Press the dough together at the base to seal and cut off the excess to form squares, leaving a half-inch border of dough around the onion. Using a fork, crimp the edges and brush the entire top with egg wash. Sprinkle the remaining cheese over the pockets.

Transfer the pockets to a baking sheet and bake until golden brown, about 40 minutes. Serve

Massachusetts v. EPA. that the Clean Air Act (CAA) authorizes the regulation of GHGs

- Comments due to EPA by November 28.
- ANPR could be used as blueprint for GHG regulations by a future administration, especially if Congress fails to pass climate legislation next year.

Kyoto Protocol and Montreal Protocol were discussed.

ISO TC: - Proposal of possible interest is application of scaling factor to cup burner value of extinguishing concentration for clean agents.
- Proposal to develop a new standard for oxygen reduction systems for fire prevention ("hypoxic air")

NFPA Cultural Resources Technical Committee is seeking NFPA Research Foundation to organize a test program regarding effect of portable fire extinguishers on cultural artifacts.

NFPA Research Foundation study on clean agent extinguishing concentrations for Class C fires – draft report scheduled for August has not been submitted as yet.



warm.