

# The Halon Herald

News from the halon & clean agent world

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## UL Reverses Course on Halon

UL released a memo on March 12, stating the withdrawal of terminating UL 1093. UL states in this memo, "due to the presumed lack of halogen extinguishing agent marketplace availability as a result of the Montreal Protocol, industry expected to eliminate the production of halogen agent fire extinguishers in 2009. However, despite the termination of new production of the Halogen Agent, significant quantities of agent produced prior to the moratorium and agent reclaimed for resale still exists in the marketplace. It is understood that these types of Halogen Agent Fire Extinguishers continue to be produced using available agent for use almost exclusively in aircraft and for isolated applications required by the U.S. military. This type of extinguisher is currently required by U.S. FAA regulations that continue to specify the installation of portable halogen agent extinguishers on transport airplanes."

We'd like to think that HARC (Halon Alternatives Research Corporation) and other industry executives and researchers had a hand in convincing UL of the danger in their original decision, for a multitude of reasons (refer to [John Demeter's "The Air Up There" column in a previous issue](#)). Either way, we applaud UL for reversing the termination, and we even more loudly applaud all of those in the fire suppression industry who took a stand against UL to bring this change about. Bravo!

You can read the memo on our website, [here](#).

The Air Up There:  
The Future of FM-200

by John Demeter

## Chrissy's Corner

Randomness from the Editor-in-Chief



I am so excited to announce that the HH will have a brand new layout in the upcoming months!

Big deal, you say. Au contrair, my readers. it IS a big deal, because it will add more minutes to your already jam packed life! The new HH promises to be much more user friendly, so you can access directly the parts you want to read FIRST. In addition to a snazzy new background, text, and colors, we're making it much more simple to point, click, and read.

In addition to THAT excitement, we're adding a comments section so you can talk with us - and others - about your thoughts on the articles. EVERY article. Did John Demeter hit a nerve with his last "The Air Up There"? Point, click, and type away your frustrations. Anonymously, or sign your name. It's up to you! Have a question for our editors? Comment on my section!

Most importantly, we are adding more topics to address, so that we can hit all of our readers interests. Look forward to finding article that directly appeal to and involve every single member of the fire suppression industry - from the small companies to the multi millionaires. There WILL be something for everyone in the new format of the HH!

This seems to be the month of big announcements. If you read on below, you will find out our other exciting announcement. March is the month of rebirth and "new", and Wesco is definitely living by that standard nowadays!

And, in closing - Opening Day for baseball is coming - LET'S GO METS!

Chrissy George, Editor-in-Chief



Notable Main Events

March 2009

- 5th - 6th - [NAFED Regional Conference](#)
- 8th - Daylight Savings Time Starts
- 17th - St. Patrick's Day
- 20th - First Day of Spring

April 2009

- 1st - April Fools Day
- 2nd - 3rd - [NAFED Regional Conference](#)
- 9th - Passover
- 12th - Easter
- 22th - Appreciate your employees! Administrative Professionals Day

We recently finished an interesting week of travel that started in New Jersey, passed through Orlando and ended up in Las Vegas – where we ate at one of our favorite restaurants – Michael Mina’s - pictured elsewhere on these pages. We saw many friends and colleagues, spoke with countless more and realized how lucky we are to work in this fire protection industry. (No, we are not being our usual sarcastic self. We mean it!)

We also realized that this industry is full of some really smart people. People like Dr. Mack McFarland and Dr. Mark Robin of Team DuPont and Tom Cortina of HARC, the three of whom gave insightful presentations at the annual meeting of the Fire Suppression System Association (FSSA), in Orlando. We know we are in the presence of smart people when we take a lot of notes - and take notes we did!

The common thread in the three presentations was **FM200™**. Dr. Robin presented a comparative study of FM200™ and water-based systems that showed the superiority of the former when it comes to fire suppression. Dr. McFarland and Tom Cortina discussed the implications for FM200™ within the current climate change debate. Out of all the notes we scribbled, one stands out among the others. It says, -- wait, before we tell you what the note said, let us be clear. **None of the three presenters actually said this.** The note was simply **our conclusion** after hearing the presentations. In fact, the three presenters gave remarkably objective assessments.

Our note said:

**FM200™ Will Be Taxed by the Federal Government and Possibly State Governments Soon!**  
**FM200™ Will be phased down and possibly out of use within the next 10 years!**

Shocking, huh?

We thought so too. We knew that HFCs like FM200™ were under attack for their possible contribution to climate change, but being the optimists we always assumed that due to the societal benefits that FM200™ brings, the relatively small portion that fire protection represents of carbon emissions and the “non

Thanks for reading,

Wesco Opens in Phoenix!

At the recent National Association of Fire Equipment Distributors meeting in Las Vegas, NV, Wesco proudly unveiled their newest filling station location - Phoenix, AZ!

Wesco will be working in part with American Fire, in Phoenix, to assist in expedited fillings for customers in the West. With this new location, Wesco's capabilities have enormously grown, by being able to offer its superior Wesco service along with now much more inexpensive shipping rates for those out West.

Shannon Esopenko, Wesco's National Sales and Business Development manager, says, "I am thrilled that we will now be able to service our Western customers with our new recharge station out in Phoenix! Not only will the customer service continue to be the best, but added in will now be lower ship costs and quicker turnaround time...it can't get any better than that! I also look forward to us being able to expand our business to those who need that extra touch!"

Wesco is proud to begin a mutually beneficial relationship with American Fire, and looks forward to offering our western customers the same top notch service, with a better price tag!



Andy Clark from American Fire, John Demeter and Shannon Esopenko from Wesco

emissive” nature of fire suppression, it would not get caught up in Climate Change legislation.

We were wrong. (Mixed Metaphor Warning) The train has left the station! The snowball is gathering size and speed and rolling toward us. The elephant is in the room and the crazy aunt has come down out of the attic!

Last year there were a total of 11 Bills in Congress dealing with Green House Gas (GHG) and that was before the election of an administration committed to not only signing a climate change bill but with a tendency to turning important issues over to his “even more committed” leadership in Congress to write. (See Reid/Pelosi and the Stimulus Bill). While none of these Bills specifically mention fire protection, unless someone inserts an exclusion (see Dodd and the Stimulus Bill) HFC’s (including FM200™ and FE25) will be **taxed and phased out**. Fire protection is very likely to get “more complicated, expensive and difficult” according to a source who wishes to remain anonymous.

Nevertheless, we decided to test our reaction to this issue with others in the industry who heard the same presentations. Another shocker! Nine out of ten people surveyed either agreed with our conclusion or said that it was likely that FM200™ **will be taxed and possibly phased out soon**.

We then asked a question of the same people (most of whom were fire equipment distributors). “If you or one of your sales people were giving a presentation to an account and were asked, ‘is it true, as we have heard, that FM200™ will be **taxed and possibly phased out** by the government because it is a green house gas’ would you know how to respond?” Ten out of Ten said no!

This is not a good thing for our industry, even if you are selling a chemical agent that is not a GHG and is non-zone depleting like 3M’s Novec 1230™. The simple reason is that the market reaction in many cases will not be to go with the more “green” agent, but to do without suppression altogether! This is happening now and will only get worse as the climate change debate progresses.

Maybe there are no clear answers at the moment. Maybe the situation is so fluid and complicated by the current economic crisis and inherent complexities of trying to regulate carbon emissions in a carbon based economy that it will take years to resolve? Or maybe not.

A message to manufacturers (of equipment and chemical agent):

**Fire Equipment Distributors need an answer to this question:** “Is it true what they say about FM200™?” If there is no answer at the moment then fire equipment distributors need to know that their manufacturers and associations are doing everything possible to protect this market that has

## DuPont Issues White Paper on Hydrofluorocarbons

As the Halon Herald was going to press, we received a copy of a White Paper by Dr. Mark Robin of DuPont titled, “The Role of Hydrofluorocarbons in Global Fire Protection”.

Here is an excerpt:

“The HFC clean agents provide the best overall combination of the properties desirable in a clean agent replacement for the halons: high effectiveness, cleanliness, low chemical reactivity, low toxicity, minimal environmental impact, and competitive system cost. As a result, the HFCs are the most widely employed halon replacements worldwide, and these systems currently protect billions of dollars worth of assets in more than 65 countries. HFC clean agent technology is a mature technology, having provided protection of valuable assets for over 17 years with an excellent performance and safety record.”

You can read the entire report [here](#).

## Remembering Ernie Horvath

It is with regret and sadness that we pass along the info to our readers that Ernie Horvath, owner of Reliable Fire in Alsip, IL.

Ernie was an invaluable asset to the fire suppression industry, and all that knew him or even knew of him, have fond memories of him. Below is the press release from FSSA with his obituary.

FSSA regrets to inform you that Ernie Horvath, 77, passed away on Friday, February 13, 2009 after a long battle with cancer. FSSA sends its condolences to the Horvath family.

Surviving are his wife of 52 years, Barbara; daughters, Debra and Pamela; grandchildren Lee Ryan, Tyler and Nicole. Ernie was a loving uncle and great uncle to many nieces and nephews.

Ernie was the founder and president of Reliable Fire Equipment Company that was started in 1955. The company has grown from a single truck to one of the largest fire protection distributors in the Chicago area. He was a charter member of FSSA and helped with the founding of the organization. He served in many capacities for the association including the Board of Directors and the Technical Committee.

Ernie also served in the U.S. Air Force, prior to founding Reliable Fire Equipment Company.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers, contributions be sent in the memory of Ernie Horvath to St. Francis of Assisi Church, 15050 Wolf

taken decades to build and provides the highest quality of fire protection anywhere.

If not, prepare to see your sales graphs trending down starting in 2009.

### Wesco Attends FSSA

Wesco recently attended the annual Fire Suppression Systems Association's Show in Orlando, FL - it was truly a pleasure and an enriching experience for us!

The meeting included plenty of time to meet and talk with others in the suppression industry, as well as educational business seminars, such as employee relations, achieving goals with a generalized teamwork, business asset assessment, and creating and maintaining strategic relationships. In addition to business seminars, the meeting also had several fire suppression seminars, focusing on climate change and protection, clean agents and sprinkler comparisons, and recent actions to address climate change.

All that attended can easily agree that this was a meeting not to be missed! Kudos to FSSA for such a great job!

### Recipe of the Month!

It doesn't get any easier than this lemon chicken pasta! Try it on those nights where you're too tired to cook, but sick of take out. Delicious, simple, and most of you already have the ingredients in your cabinets. For an even shorter shortcut, use an already cooked rotisserie chicken from the supermarket.

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

#### Easy Lemon Chicken Pasta

- \* 1 pound dried penne
- \* 2 chicken cutlets, cut into fingers
- \* Salt and freshly ground black pepper
- \* 3 cloves garlic, sliced
- \* 1/4 teaspoon red pepper flakes
- \* 3 tablespoons olive oil
- \* 3 tablespoons roughly chopped fresh parsley, for garnish

Rd., Orland Park, IL 60467. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to Barbara Horvath, 101 Windmill Road, Orland Park, IL 60467.

Wesco passes along its condolences and thoughts to the Horvath family. The industry truly has lost a great man.

### Direct from HARC: Final Ruling on Aircraft Bottles

Tom Cortina from the Halon Alternatives Research Corporation reported, "Yesterday the EPA final rule on aircraft halon bottles was published in the Federal Register. The rule exempts aircraft halon bottles that are shipped to the US for servicing from the ODS import petition requirements. The rule does not exempt aircraft halon bottles from the ODS reporting and record keeping requirements. This means that any company that imports/exports aircraft halon bottles for servicing must maintain records and file quarterly and annual reports with the EPA (see page 10185-10186 of the rule)."

You can read the final ruling and memo on our website [here](#).

### Upcoming Meetings

**March 2-6 - NFPA Professional Development Seminar Week**, Garden Grove, CA.

**March 5 - HARC/HRC Meeting**, Las Vegas, NV

**March 6-7 - NAFED Regional Meeting**

**March 9-11 - Applying NFPA 101: Life Safety Code to the Joint Commission Statement of Conditions**, Las Vegas, NV.

**March 9-13 - NFPA Professional Development Seminar Week**, Las Vegas, NV

**March 12 - NAFED Certification Preparation Training: Portables** (Lawrenceville, NJ)

**March 13 - NAFED Certification Preparation Training: Pre Engineered Kitchen Systems** (Lawrenceville, NJ)

**March 16-20 - NFPA Professional Development Seminar Week**, Houston, TX

**March 23-27 - NFPA Professional Development Seminar Week**, Quincy, MA

**March 30-April 3 - NFPA Professional Development Seminar Week**, Atlanta, GA

**April 1-3 - NFPA Professional Development Seminar Week**, Quincy, MA

**April 3-4 - NAFED Regional Meeting**

**April 6-10 - NFPA Professional Development Seminar Week**, Richmond, VA

**April 20-22 - Applying NFPA 101®: Life Safety Code® to the Joint Commission Statement of**

- \* 2 lemons, juiced
- \* 1/2 cup grated Parmesan

Cook the pasta in a large pot of boiling salted water, until al dente. Drain well.

Season chicken with salt and pepper. Heat a large grill pan over medium high and add chicken. Grill until golden and completely cooked. Remove to a plate and slice.

Add the garlic and red pepper flakes to a saute pan with 3 tablespoons of olive oil and saute until fragrant. Add the cooked pasta and turn heat off. Mix all together.

Remove pasta to a large bowl. Add chicken to the warm pasta and season with salt and pepper. Sprinkle in chopped parsley. Add the juice of 2 lemons and mix. Before serving, top with Parmesan.

[Conditions](#), Atlanta, GA

**April 20-24** - [NFPA Professional Development Seminar Week](#), Atlantic City, NJ

**April 27-29** - [NFPA Professional Development Seminar Week](#), London, England

**April 27-May 1** - [NFPA Professional Development Seminar Week](#), Quincy, MA

**May 4-8** - [NFPA Professional Development Seminar Week](#), Farmington, CT

**May 11-15** - [NFPA Professional Development Seminar Week](#), Nashville, TN

**May 12-14** - [The Research Foundation will sponsor a seminar and symposium on dust explosion hazards](#), Baltimore, MD

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

**May 18-22** - [NFPA Professional Development Seminar Week](#), Quincy, MA

**June 1-5** - [NFPA Professional Development Seminar Week](#), Cranberry Twp, PA

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

**June 8-10** - [Applying NFPA 101®: Life Safety Code® to the Joint Commission Statement of Conditions](#), Oakbrook Terrace, IL

**June 10-12** - [International Fire Safety Conference](#), Madrid, Spain

**June 22-26** - [NFPA Professional Development Seminar Week](#), Ft. Lauderdale, FL