

# PPD ES&H Newsletter

February 2010

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## Smoke Detectors and Radiation

The two most common types of smoke detector's used in the U.S. are [ionization detectors](#) and [photoelectric detectors](#). Ionization detectors contain a very small amount of radioactive material, Americium 241.

Americium 241 emits alpha particles (large particles that typically cannot penetrate a piece of paper); these particles are usually only dangerous when swallowed or inhaled. The Americium 241 is well contained in the ceramic chamber located inside the detector. Never attempt to dismantle your smoke detectors, and you will not be over-exposed to this material.

To dispose of your ionization smoke detector, it is best to contact the manufacturer, as they are responsible for collecting detectors with radioactive materials. If your smoke detector contains radioactive material, there should be a warning label indicating as such.

For photoelectric smoke detectors, some local landfills will take these detectors, as long as the battery is removed. Confirm with your local waste disposal company.

Manufacturers of smoke detectors can be contacted to determine if they will accept your old smoke detectors. Below is a list of well-known manufacturers:

Check out the following for further information:

**First Alert, Inc.**  
1-800-323-9005

**Kidde Residential & Commercial Division**  
1-800-880-6788

**American Sensors/Dicon**  
1-800-387-4219

**Safety's Sake/Funtech**  
1-800-877-1250

**Invensys/FireX**  
1-800-445-8299



U.S. Fire Administration's December 2009 issue of "Tech Talk"

## Revised Waste Rules & Programs:

### Solvent-Contaminated Rags and Wipes



Due to a change in the Code of Federal Regulations 40 CFR 261.3(a)(2)(iv) "Definition of hazardous waste":

Rags/wipes that are contaminated with flammable solvents will now be characterized as [Hazardous Waste](#) instead of [Special Waste](#). Your area waste generator will collect these and prepare the waste disposal forms. **You** are responsible for ensuring the rags/wipes are placed in the proper container(s) for disposal.



### Battery Recycling

The battery recycling program has changed—Now only the lead-acid and 9V alkaline batteries need their terminals taped before placing in the recycling bins. Check out the [Battery Recycling](#) flyer for more details.

Should you have any questions regarding waste disposal, contact the PPD Waste Coordinator— [Jose De La O](#), x2557.

## Proper Waste Disposal

Items such as paint, can sometimes be considered hazardous waste, and should never be thrown in the general trash dumpsters until the waste types has been determined. It is imperative that you **DO NOT** bring items from home to throw away here. Local disposal sites often have Household Hazardous Waste disposal available (see more information below).

If you come across an item that is ready for disposal, but you are not sure how you should get rid of it, contact your area Waste Generator, or the PPD [Waste Coordinator](#).

### Household wastes

Many common household wastes and their disposal options can be found on the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's [Waste Disposal Solutions](#) website. Many items that are considered hazardous may be disposed of at your local Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Site. Check out City of Naperville's [Household Hazardous Waste](#) website for more information on items that are accepted.

#### Regular Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off:

Naperville Fire Station #44  
9:00 am—2:00 pm  
Every Saturday & Sunday (except holidays)  
Corner of Route 59 and Brookdale (1/2 mile south of I-88)

*Pictured to the right are two cans of Venetian plaster that someone had thrown into a dumpster. The cans had to be removed before the dumpster could be picked up by the hauler, or the lab could have faced fines.*



## Safety Advisory: Leaking Acetylene Cylinder Shut Off Valves



The DOE's Office of Health, Safety & Security has put out a [safety advisory](#) regarding leaking acetylene cylinder shut off valves.

At the Savannah River Salt Processing Facility: while rebar was being cut with an acetylene torch, a fire occurred at the cylinder shut off valve. Following the incident investigation, it was determined that the fire resulted from a leaking shut off valve nut. Based on that determination, all acetylene cylinders at the facility were inspected for leaks; 8 were found to be leaking at the same shut off valve nut, but only when the valve was open (and each leaking cylinder had a double nut valve). The gas vendor is conducting an investigation into the cause for the valve leaks.

If you have acetylene cylinders in your work area, the cylinders should be inspected to determine which type of shut off valve they have (single or double nut configurations). If the cylinders have double nut shut off valves, they need to be checked for leaks. Any cylinders that have a leak should be returned to the supplier.

## Ice Hazards

On January 4th, an Aurora man was traveling East on Butterfield Road, a semi-trailer was traveling in the opposite direction. When the semi-trailer drove under an over-pass, a large block of ice fell off the trailer, and crashed into the Aurora man's windshield. The ice broke the windshield and sprayed his face with glass. His nose and left eyelid were cut, and he was bleeding profusely, but was able to stop the vehicle. Other drivers stopped to assist the man until an ambulance arrived. The semi driver continued on, possibly unaware of what had just occurred, as they were heading in opposite directions. Witnesses were unable to provide many details on the truck and trailer, other than it was white. The full story can be found [here](#).

Take caution when following semi trailers that may have ice or snow built up on their trailers, and maintain some distance to prevent this type of incident occurring to you. Protect fellow drivers by clearing your own vehicles of snow the best you can.

## February is American Heart Month

Heart disease is still the **number one cause of death** in the U.S. The American Heart Association (AHA) is promoting American Heart Month during February to encourage Americans to prevent cardiovascular diseases, such as heart attack and stroke.

Did you know...

- Nearly 900,000 Americans die of cardiovascular diseases each year, which amounts to one death every 33 seconds.
- About 80 million Americans (almost one-third of the population) have some form of cardiovascular disease, which is responsible for more than 6 million hospitalizations each year.
- About 90% of middle-aged Americans will develop high blood pressure in their lifetime, and nearly 70% of those who have it now do not have it under control.



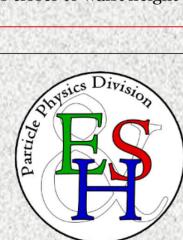
Are you familiar with the warning signs of a heart attack? A stroke? Cardiac arrest? Please review the AHA's [Heart Attack, Stroke and Cardiac Arrest Warning Signs](#) page to prepare yourself. If you are interested in statistics, the AHA has published a [2009 Heart Disease & Stroke Statistics Guide](#). You can learn more about various heart diseases [here](#).

## PPD January Injuries



**First aid case:** An employee was working in the D-Zero detector hall. Other employees were working above on a platform. One of the employees working on the platform accidentally kicked a screwdriver and it fell through a space between two platforms. The employee working at the lower level was not wearing their hard hat at the time, and was struck on the head by the falling screwdriver, suffering a small laceration that required first aid only. This area is a hard hat-required work area, and all individuals involved had been through Do Hazard Awareness Training.

**Recordable injury:** A worker at MAB was doing some brazing on copper materials. In between brazing different pieces, the worker would set the materials on the floor to cool, repeatedly having to crouch down. The employee's knee began to hurt during one of many transfers, and began to notice swelling of the knee. For certain jobs that create awkward working positions, it is best to evaluate if there is a way to make the job more comfortable. It may have been more practical to set cooling items on a surface that is closer to waist height to reduce the amount of crouching, stooping and bending.



**Challenge**

## January Winners!!

**Winner of the Mossy Oak Safety Glasses:**



**Winner of the ES&H Coffee Mug:**

*Jannine Wilson*

**Question:** *What is the ANSI cut-resistance level for the new Skinny Dip gloves, now available in the stock room?*

**Answer:** *Cut Resistance Level 3*



*Ed Dijak*

**Winning Caption:**

**Worker #1:** "Why did you install that last post before we moved the truck?"

**Worker #2:** "I don't know...Ya think we can just drive through the lobby to get out of here?"

**Contest runners-up:**

- I sure hope they have movie club coverage that covers towing with a crane.
- "Hey Vern, looky o'er thar, what is wit that blue truck? Reckon it's one of them thar Kiosks?" "No I'm thinkin it's one of them 'Objecto de artos' people talk about."
- Are you sure that we have the correct grout? I don't want another screw-up like last time.
- Hurry up and finish, I want to drive home for the game.

## February Contest #1—Captions

For a Mag Lite mini-flashlight:

Provide a *humorous* caption for the following picture:



## February Contest #2

Answer the following question, and you could win a PPD ES&H coffee mug:

How many Americans have some form of cardiovascular disease?



Please send your responses/answers to [Angela Sands](#) by February 26<sup>th</sup>.

(If there are multiple correct answers/entries, a drawing is held.)

Did you find this newsletter helpful? Does it have the kind of information you are looking for? Your feedback is important. Please continue to use the [electronic safety concern database](#), the suggestion boxes in your area, or send comments to Angela Sands, [asands@fnal.gov](#)