

## Technical Bulletin No. 95-01

SUBJECT(S): POLLUTION PREVENTION AND BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR AUTOMOBILE AND OTHER SALVAGE FACILITIES OPERATING IN BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA.

Salvage facilities have operated in Broward County for several decades. Historically, these facilities have stockpiled items with salvage value such as junked automobiles and scrap metals in unpaved yards. Until recently, few regulatory controls were placed on salvage operations. As a result, oil, coolant, chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and other hazardous materials were released to the air, ground waters, surface waters and soils. Today, stringent environmental protection measures applicable to salvage facilities are in place. Even so, salvage facilities are operated in widely different manners with some going well beyond regulatory requirements to protect the environment from contamination and others allowing hazardous materials to enter into the Broward County environment.

In the Fall of 1994, the Broward County Department of Planning and Environmental Protection (Broward County) initiated a program to further regulatory compliance and pollution prevention opportunities in the salvage industry. A key feature of this program has been meetings between salvage facility operators and DPEP staff to discuss program components, regulatory requirements, and recommendations to best accomplish pollution prevention and waste minimization. To further assist facility operators, a reference document was prepared by DPEP detailing the topics covered in the meetings.

As a result of this pollution prevention and best management practices program (P2-BMP), improvements have been made in the following areas:

- salvage industry compliance with local, state and federal regulations;
- implementation of waste minimization and pollution prevention measures;
- salvage industry and DPEP relations; and
- fostering a "Pollution Prevention" attitude within the salvage industry operating in Broward County.

Some of P2-BMP recommendations that were developed by DPEP and salvage facility operators include the following:

- a. Remove and collect all fluids, refrigerants, oil filters, and air bag cartridges from vehicles upon receipt;
- b. Dedicate a single area of the salvage yard to vehicle disassembly and fluids/refrigerants removal. This area should have a bermed, impervious surface and be under cover. In addition, drip pans should be used during all fluids removal operations;

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- c. Keep disassembly area clear of stacked vehicles or parts so that disassembly is always conducted in the dedicated area;
- d. Have the appropriate equipment available and in good working order to collect fluids and refrigerants;
- e. Segregate all waste fluids into separate containers prior to reuse, recycling or disposal;
- f. Close all hazardous material containers when not in use;
- g. Label all containers used for storing wastes with at least the name of the waste contained and the start date of filling;
- h. Retrieve unused air bag cartridges from vehicles for resale. Otherwise, dispose of these cartridges as a hazardous waste;
- i. Conduct all vehicle crushing operations in a bermed, impervious area;
- j. Cover the disassembly area, and other secondary containment areas, to avoid the contamination of rainwater with hazardous materials;
- k. Store all drained engines and transmissions under cover and over an impervious floor. Use drip pans to catch any residual fluids;
- l. Have batteries hauled away when enough are accumulated for hauling;
- m. Maintain a monthly accounting of each hazardous material including information on amount received or collected, amount being stored, amount shipped, etc.;
- n. Supervise all customers while they are removing parts in the yard to ensure that they use drip pans;
- o. Reuse to the greatest extent possible, all hazardous materials that would otherwise require disposal such as gasoline and antifreeze;
- p. Recycle, to the greatest extent practical, all hazardous and non-hazardous materials that cannot be reused on site (for example, oil, CFCs, used tires);
- q. Contract to have used mineral spirits removed from your facility for offsite recycling (distillation);
- r. Resell used tires in good condition for reuse and recycle the remaining tires;

- s. Do not allow operations involving open flames within 25 feet of a waste tire pile;
- t. Collect all stormwater runoff from the yard into an oil-water separator system prior to discharging to the storm sewer or groundwater. Maintain and clean out system on a regular basis;
- u. Use a computerized inventory to avoid overstocking of used parts; and
- v. Investigate your hazardous waste haulers and the disposal sites used. Verify the haulers license and disposal site permits, call appropriate local, state, and/or federal regulatory agencies to verify the hauler and disposal site compliance, visit disposal sites used, check with the hauler's and disposal site's trade organization, and check the insurance and financial position of haulers and disposal sites used.
- w. Expand the required weekly inspection of all storage containers to include identification of potential facility conditions and activities that may result in release of hazardous materials to the environment;
- x. Prepare a facility spill contingency plan; and;
- y. Develop a comprehensive pollution prevention program to minimize the release and maximize the reuse and recycling of hazardous materials.

The P2-BMP program for salvage facilities has addressed and helped to resolve many environmental issues affecting these facilities. This program is also expected to have a positive impact on the economic health of the facility and the community. Clean air, water and a healthy ecosystem are the fundamental components for continued economic viability of Broward County.

**FURTHER INFORMATION:** For further information on this topic, contact the Broward County at (954)519-1260.