



HANDLING THE HAZARDS

Running a Safe and Effective HHW Program

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[KCMO HHW Facility]

- Run jointly through MARC and the City of Kansas City, Missouri
- Takes in Household Hazardous Waste from 35+ cities spread across 5 counties
- Staffed by four Environmental Officers and a Program Manager
- Opened in September 1996 with growth anticipated to reach a capacity of 450,000 pounds per year
- Total received weight in 2006 exceeded 1,250,000 pounds
- No preventable incidents and less than 5 non-preventable incidents in the past 3 years.

[Defining a Hazard]

- Hazard: A source of danger; a possibility of incurring loss or misfortune. To put it simply: Something with the potential to cause harm
- Listing your hazards up front is the first step.
- Avoid preventable hazards completely
- Plan for non-preventable hazards



[Identifying Your Hazards]

THE MAJORITY OF HAZARDS ON A HHW SITE ARE NOT CHEMICAL

- Site Hazards: - Noise exposure, trip hazards, onsite machinery
- Natural Hazards: Insect bites, exposure to the elements
- Human Hazards: Workplace violence, horseplay, improperly trained employees and volunteers, clients
- Material Hazards: Chemicals, glass, metals, large items
- Storage Hazards: Open roll-off boxes, improperly vented cabinets, open storage shelving, improperly labeled or open drums
- Vehicular Hazards: Client vehicles, employee vehicles, material haulers
- Ergonomic Hazards: Lifting, bending, repetitive motion

KCMO HHW Facility Hazards

- Waste is brought in from approximately 50 different households per day and up to 500 on event Saturdays
- Many chemicals are in the wrong bottles, mixed, or unknown
- Customers have a tendency not to be completely honest with what they bring in
- Customers are often in a hurry or want to “be helpful” resulting in spills and unidentified materials

KCMO HHW Facility Hazards



- Heavy equipment and people have to share the same small space
- Chemical storage cabinets become full quickly
- Spills are more likely as volume increases
- Working with a small staff causes ergonomic hazards

[It's All About S.A.F.E.T.Y.]

- S – Safe Work Practices
- A – Assessing Your Program
- F – Fostering Beneficial Relationships
- E – Educating Clients and Volunteers
- T – Training the Right Employees
- Y – Yearly Reevaluation

[Safe Work Practices]

- Know your materials and all hazards associated with those materials
- Keep lists of incompatible materials
- Wear appropriate PPE at all times
- Understand the limitations of your site
- Proper material handling and storage

[Assessing Your Program]

- How much material can you safely handle in a day, week, quarter and/or year?
- How much material will your budget allow you to process?
- Does your budget allow for changes in costs? (Regulatory, PPE, Staffing)
- Is your program operating in a manner that is cost efficient and safe?

Fostering Beneficial Relationships

- Regulatory Agencies
- Municipal Groups – City and County
- Not-For-Profit Groups
- Relationships with Recyclers/End Users
- Relationships with Haulers
- Involvement with Innovative Industry Groups

[Educating Clients and Volunteers]

- Education is your best tool
- Proper site signage
- Written site safety plans read and signed by employees and volunteers
- Onsite MSDS and lists of all important emergency numbers
- Instill a sense of responsibility

[Training the Right Employees]

- Competent employees are the biggest key to properly managing hazards
- Are you hiring qualified and innovative people?
- Are you hiring people with personalities that mesh with current employees?
- Do your employees genuinely care about the job they do?
- Can you get those employees the training they need to be up to speed on your processes?



[Yearly Reevaluation]

- Have changes in materials changed hazards
- Have changes in recycling processes caused changes in hazards
- Budget reevaluation
- Changes in staffing requirements
- Safety plan updates

[Handling the Hazards]

- Questions or Comments?



Enjoy the Rest of
the Conference!