



RMHMA Newsletter

1st Quarter, 2004

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Hazmat Incidents Show Downward Trend</i>	1, 2
<i>Ammonia Leak Causes Evacuations</i>	1, 3
<i>What's In Your Station?</i>	3
<i>Board of Directors</i>	2, 3
<i>Conference Info</i>	1

24th Annual Training & Education Conference, April 26-30, 2004 in Cheyenne

The Colorado Division of Fire Safety is offering 5 scholarships for the conference. This will cover the cost of the registration and lodging only.

Applications and information can be found on our website at www.rmhma.com. Please have your completed applications submitted no later than March 26th, 2004. We just got the go ahead and apologize for the late notice, we are trying to get the word out to all departments and stations that are eligible.

Please forward any questions concerning this matter to Theresa Staples at the Division of Fire Safety, 700 Kipling Suite 1000, Denver, CO 80215. Phone: (303) 239-4463 or I(800) 317-FIRE. Applications may be faxed to (303) 239-4405.



Hazmat Incidents Show Downward Trend

By Kathleen Murphy, Staff Writer, August 22, 2003, Stateline.org

Illinois led all states last year in the number of spills involving chemicals, petroleum, medical waste or other hazardous materials, known as "hazmat," according to U.S. Transportation Department data. The Prairie State had 1,324 incidents last year, nearly nine percent of the national total, federal data showed. Package carriers such as FedEx and UPS accounted for 730 of the Illinois incidents, Terry Moore, hazmat compliance unit manager for the Illinois Department of Transportation, told *Stateline.org*. "Illinois is the crossroads of the United States. We have major FedEx facilities. Obviously you have O'Hare airport, which is a large hub for air freight. FedEx is a high-volume transporter in ground and in air, but most everything has to go by ground before it gets to another mode of transportation ... Obviously they're going to have some incidents somewhere along the line," Moore said. FedEx spokeswoman Sally Davenport said the company reports even minor incidents where materials leak inside the box. Most FedEx shipments are less than



Reedy Creek Emergency Services, FL Squad 1

70 pounds and under four liters, and shipments of ordinary items like paint or dry ice trigger federal reporting requirements for hazmat incidents if they spill, Davenport said. UPS spokesman Dan McMackin said, "Illinois happens to have our largest packaging facility in its boundaries. It's the largest package handling facility in the world. We report every single incident regardless of how small it is. We're absolutely fanatical about reporting. We don't handle radioactive materials. What we're talking about is fingernail polish remover and toilet bowl cleaner." *...Continued on page 2*

AMMONIA LEAK CAUSES EVACUATIONS IN OHIO **JOHN NOLAN, ASSOCIATED PRESS**

PLEASANT PLAIN, Ohio (AP) -- Someone trying to steal anhydrous ammonia from a fertilizer plant early Wednesday released a stinging cloud of the chemical that led to the evacuation of about 300 residents, fire officials said. No injuries were reported. Most residents were allowed to return about an hour after a

hazardous materials team closed a valve on an ammonia tank, Harlan Township Fire Chief Andy Mitten said. The leak at the Southwest Landmark plant was reported about 4:30 a.m., officials said. "It's definitely criminal activity," Mitten said. Anhydrous ammonia is *...Continued on page 3*

HAZMAT INCIDENTS...

**Chairperson/
Membership Director**

Ron Sprouse
Colorado Springs Fire
Department

**Vice Chairperson/
Government Director**

Robin Kissell
Colorado DOT

**Secretary/
Emergency Mgmt. Director**

Rosalie Dukart
Retired Adams County OEM

Treasurer

John Marshall
EPA Region VIII

**Past Chair/
Environmental Director**

Jim Knoy
EPA Region VIII

Emergency Medical Director

Jim Olsen
Littleton Fire Rescue

Fire Director

Mark Schuman
North Washington Fire Dept.

Health Director

Mike Moreland
Colorado Office of Prepared-
ness, Security & Fire Safety

Industry Director

Ward Barnett
Conoco Inc.

Industry Director

Sandy Friedman
Custom Environmental
Services, Inc.

Law Enforcement Director

Tom Seaman
Colorado State Patrol

Liaison Director

Theresa Staples
Colorado Division of Fire
Safety

More potent chemical spills could injure or kill people, shut down roadways and cause lasting environmental damage. The advent of bio-terrorism has brought hazmat security to the forefront, and government is responsible for assuring safe, reliable and secure movements of hazardous materials.

In Illinois as well as other states, the number of incidents involving potentially harmful materials was down last year. Hazmat incidents were at their lowest level since 1997, and the number of related fatalities was lowest since 1995. Nationwide, 15,346 hazmat incidents resulted in seven deaths and about \$50 million in damages last year, a federal hazmat report issued July 29 said. There were 2,523 fewer U.S. incidents in 2002 than the previous year.

Alan Borner, president of the [Environmental Hazards Management Institute](#), a non-profit, non-partisan environmental organization, attributed the declining number of spills to expensive legal sanctions against transportation companies. "The liability has caught up. They've been sued enough. They've been fined enough. So there's finally a slight reduction-- and maybe even more than slight-- as a result of people taking these things seriously," Borner said.

Texas and California each also had about 1,000 hazmat spills last year. So did Ohio, where Interstate 70 is a major freight thoroughfare. New Hampshire, Vermont, South Dakota, Alaska and Hawaii each had fewer than 15 hazmat incidents in 2002. About 800,000 hazmat shipments move across the country daily, according to the U.S. Transportation Department. About 3 billion tons of hazardous materials are transported annually, federal data shows.

Some states are prone to more spills because of larger amounts of hazmat traffic, said Carmen Daecher, president of [Daecher Consulting Group](#), a Pennsylvania firm that investigates hazmat incidents and performs accident reconstruction services. "A lot of these are not multiple vehicle accidents. Many of these occur because of overturn situations with trucks, or where highways and ramps are too short or turn too quickly," Daecher said.

The greatest amount of hazardous tonnage moves through Illinois, Texas, California, Louisiana and Florida, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's most recent data. Most hazardous materials are transported on highways using trucks, and the trucking industry's safety record has been improving. Highway safety statistics have shown a two-decade drop in the nation's large truck fatal crash rate, according to the [American Trucking Associations](#).

Increased efforts to safeguard the U.S. transportation system from terrorism after the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, has led to new hazmat [restrictions](#). The USA Patriot Act of 2001 prohibits states from issuing a commercial driver's license with a hazmat endorsement to any person unless the federal government determines he or she poses no security risk.

Illinois scrutinized state licensing of truckers and ordered more than 1,000 truckers to retake their licensing tests after a scandal erupted in 2000. Federal authorities [alleged](#) that Illinois officials issued truck driver's licenses to people without making them properly complete written tests and allowed them to cheat during the tests.

Then-Gov. George Ryan denied knowing about state employees granting commercial licenses in exchange for bribes, a practice the federal investigators said began during Ryan's tenure as secretary of state.

Contact Kathleen Murphy at kmurphy@stateline.org

WHAT'S IN YOUR STATION?

Reedy Creek Emergency Services, Florida

BY SAFETY JOHN

Let me assure you this, the Reedy Creek Fire Department (RCFD) is no "Mickey Mouse" operation. The Reedy Creek Improvement District Emergency Services or communally called the Reddy Creek Fire Department operates 3 Engine Companies, 2 Towers (Quints), 7 ALS Ambulances, 1 Heavy Rescue/Hazmat, 1 Tanker, 3 Brush Units out of four stations. Their Station 4 was just opened this year. Also included in their equipment roster are 2 special Towers they call a "Platypus". These are specially designed escape towers that can response over swamp areas in order to effect an emergency evacuation of the monorail. The RCFD not only covers the Disney World complex but a total of 38 square miles around the Magic Kingdom including 10 miles of Interstate 4 in Central Florida. Currently the Improvement District is in the process of annexing additional land and their coverage will be increasing in late 2004. The Department has a force of just over 100 uniformed Fire Firefighters. Their seven Ambulances and the Squad are ALS staffed. As a service to the Disney community, Ambulances will transport to any Hospital in the state of Florida providing the patient's condition allows. The daily staffing is between 28 & 32 Firefighters and Paramedics. The Squad doubles as their Hazmat Unit. Reedy Creek's Squad 1 is an older model Freightliner with a Res-



Reedy Creek Fire Department

cue Master Box. The unit is staffed with 3, all are certified at the Tech Level and 1 is also a Paramedic. Squad 1 may be smaller than most Hazmat units but over the years the firefighters have adapted it quite well to carry the equipment they need

most. A year ago they added "coffin compartments" on top of the unit. When additional equipment is needed, a large Hazmat Trailer is brought to the scene. Since this unit doubles as a heavy rescue they see much action along I-4 and much of the adjacent Seminole County. They are automatically dispatched in surrounding jurisdictions as part of the Central Florida Mutual Aid Agreement. Currently the department is responding to an average of 80 emergency calls per day. As with most departments the majority of their calls are EMS related. I can not close without mentioning the quite large and unique fire stations at Reedy Creek. Station 1 is an eight bay ranch style station with exterior ceramic tile design borrowed directly from "Pongo and Purdy" from 101 Dalmatians. Station 2 host a 12' helmet front entrance with a 8' fire hydrant with 12" VLDH (that's very large diameter hose) running across the station front, into a lake and shooting a stream straight up in the air through a 4' high stack tip nozzle. Do you see any "Disney Design"?

Promotions/ Vendors Director

Jeff Cunningham
Custom Environmental
Services, Inc.

Publications Director

Tina Kauffman
Custom Environmental
Services, Inc.

Publications Assistant

John Baker
UPS SCS

Training Director

George Garramone
Retired Denver Fire Dept.

Training Assistant

Charles (Chuck) Heister
EPA Region VIII

Transportation Director

Rick Hiltman
Compliance & Safety
Management Consulting



The Rocky Mountain Hazardous Materials Association (RMHMA) draws upon the experience and expertise available from the public, industry, emergency response and regulatory agencies involved in the manufacturing, storage, transportation, disposal and public safety activities associated with hazardous materials. The RMHMA is committed to providing opportunities for these groups and individuals to exchange information and share experiences in an open and amiable form for the benefit of all.

For more information about the RMHMA and how to become a member, look us up on the web at

www.rmhma.com

AMMONIA LEAK CAUSES EVACUATIONS IN OHIO

JOHN NOLAN, ASSOCIATED PRESS

...produced as a farm fertilizer, but it's also a key ingredient in methamphetamine, a highly addictive drug. The company has had break-ins before, Mitten said. Plant manager Mike Young has asked authorities to investigate. Firefighters arriving at the plant found a thick, gray cloud hovering about two feet off the ground. Fire officials evacuated 280 residents from this southwest Ohio village, located 25 miles east of Cincinnati, along with about 20 other families who live nearby. Among the evacuees were 63-year-old Gary Copen



Ammonia Tank

and his uncle, 91-year-old Willis King.

"We went outside.

There was a very strong smell," Copen said, adding that the fumes

irritated his uncle's eyes. Ammonia vapor can burn skin on contact and if inhaled can cause fatal lung damage. Southwest Landmark has about 40 tanks that hold 300 to 400 gallons each of liquid ammonia.

RMHMA Publications Director

Tina L. Kauffman

tkauffman@customsvcs.com

Publications Assistant

John Baker

jebaker@ups-scs.com

The RMHMA Newsletter is published quarterly for the members of the Rocky Mountain Hazardous Materials Association.

Circulation: 600

Articles and ads for the 2nd quarter 2004 must be received by May 15, 2004

Send articles and ads to:

tkauffman@customsvcs.com

jebaker@ups-scs.com

Opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the editor or RMHMA Officers or Board Members.

This publication is designed to provide informative material and news of interest to its readers. It is distributed with the understanding that it does not constitute legal, or other professional advice. Although the published material will hopefully be useful to the reader, neither we, nor any other party will assume liability for loss or damage as a result of reliance on the material. Appropriate legal or other expert advice or assistance should always be sought from a competent professional. Photos are for illustration purposes only and are not to be construed as an endorsement of any particular product or company.

Classified Ad Policy and Prices

The RMHMA Newsletter is offering a classified ad section for those who want to sell, buy, or request services, equipment, supplies, etc. Ad rates are for the text only. Ads are \$4.00 per line (containing 50 characters).

Ad Rates Per Issue:

<u>RMHMA</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Non-Member</u>
Business Cards	\$20.00	\$40.00
1/4 Page	\$40.00	\$80.00
1/2 Page	\$80.00	\$160.00
3/4 Page	\$100.00	\$200.00
Full Page	\$200.00	\$400.00

Ad Material must be computer ready. Ads will be printed at the discretion of the Association. Please send ad requests to the newsletter coordinator at the following e-mail address:

RMHMA Publications Director

Tina L. Kauffman

tkauffman@customsvcs.com

Newsletter topics of interest may also be suggested at this e-mail address. Thank you for your input!



**Rocky Mountain
Hazardous Materials
Association
P.O. Box 208
Denver, CO
80201-0208**

We're on the web!
www.rmhma.com