



# Green Matters

DPW, Environmental Natural Resources Division Newsletter ~Fort Gordon,



## Upcoming Events/ Training

**Dec. 3– SPCC Training–0900-1300, Bldg 11307**

**Dec. 4 Hazardous Waste Refresher- 0830;0945, Bldg 11307**

**Dec. 10-11– Hazardous Waste Management Course, 0800-1600, Bldg 11307**

**Dec. 17–Stormwater Industrial Training– 0900-1300, Bldg 11307**

### EVENTS AROUND TOWN

**Nov. 15-Tire recycling event at Lake Olmstead 2200 Broad Street**

## Vapor Intrusion

When we think about vapors we generally think about the air around us because vapors naturally linger in the air. But where did they originate? We normally don't look to the ground beneath our feet when we think about air pollution. Bad vapors seeping from the ground can lead to air pollution which could impact human health in a negative way. Contaminated groundwater and contaminated soil are the culprits that lead to vapor intrusion (VI). If an establishment is overlying a contaminated area, it very well can be susceptible to vapor intrusion.

**What is Vapor intrusion?** When groundwater or soil is contaminated, harmful contaminants can move to overlying buildings through the vapors emitted. These vapors can migrate through the soil and enter the indoor airspace of buildings.

**Where does Vapor intrusion come from?** Some common sources of VI are gas stations and dry cleaners. Certain chemicals evaporate quickly and emit vapors that are Volatile Organic Chemicals (VOCs), thus forming VI. Thousands of manufacturers and industries also can form VI.

**How does Vapor intrusion enter a building or structure?** Vapors enter through cracks in the foundation, floor wall cracks, and utility lines.

**What are the health/safety risk?** Worse case scenario, the volatile vapors can accumulate in dwellings to levels that pose health hazards such as acute health effects, aesthetic problems (odors), or safety hazards such as the potential for explosions. Even though in most cases vapors that are present are in low levels. The concern then is what health risk long-term exposure poses. Other factors must be taken into consideration, for instance, like what other sources could be emitting the same chemicals (household solvents, gasoline, cleaners) in the buildings that may also have the potential for a health risk alone or in combination with vapor intrusion. Those at risk the most are the elderly, pregnant/nursing women, infants, children, and people who are sick. Also, the type of chemicals and levels of chemicals play a role in the severity of the effects along with an individuals sensitivity and length of exposure to it.

If you suspect that you have vapor intrusion at home or your place of work, contact your state health department.

### Inside this Issue:

~Shelf Life Management

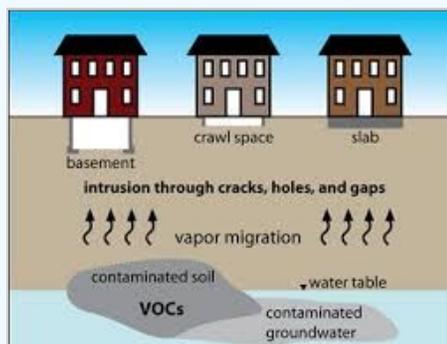
~Compliance Corner –

~Unit Recycling Challenge

~Look Before You Leap –  
Smoke Detectors



Fort Gordon Green Matters



# Shelf Life Management

**What is a Shelf-Life Item?** Any stock item (standard and hazardous, consumable and non-consumable) if not used in a certain amount of time will degenerate or become insecure. This effects military operations as well as the civilian world's. With the military constantly facing budget constraints, the pressure is on to keep in supply the many hazardous materials needed in order for operations to continue. Proper management of shelf-life items can greatly reduce hazardous materials from becoming hazardous waste.

There are two categories for shelf-life items: **Type I** and **Type II**.

**Type I:** Those items that can NOT be used beyond the specified date of expiration. Some examples include pre-served and packaged foods, medicines, heat dissipating coatings, and some adhesives and sealing compounds. They are marked with a shelf-life code as follows: C=3 months, H=12 months, M=24 months

**Type II:** Items that have a shelf-life date that indicates the deadline that it must be tested/inspected by so that it may be extended for use. Some examples include paints, pens, adhesive tapes, chemicals, disinfectants, markers and cleaning supplies. Most shelf-life items fall under this category. These are coded with a numeric shelf-life code. For example 1=3 months, 4=12 months, and 6=24 months.

Mike Pipan, Director of the Department of development of Defense (DOD) Shelf-Life Program, stated "The DOD shelf-life program impacts the entire logistic life-cycle from weapons system development to the shop floor. Accordingly, all DOD personnel need to be aware that their concern for shelf-life can improve readiness, save DOD and taxpayer dollars, and preserve our environment."

This management program helps facilities decrease the amount of hazardous waste generated and save money from unnecessary spending. It also helps the military to stay in compliance under RCRA,40 CFR 262.

Some common hazardous materials and their shelf life:

Material Class	Federal Stock Code	Current Shelf-life Term	Recommended Increase in Shelf-life Term
<b>Chemicals</b>	5610,5970,6135,6750,6810,6840,6850	6-48 months Average = 16 months	0-12 months
<b>Paints, Sealants, and Adhesives</b>	7510,7930,8010,8030,8040	6-36 months Average = 16 months	0-12 months
<b>Petroleum, Oils, and Lubricants</b>	9150	24-36 months Average = 28 months	0-24 months

*Shelf-life Management Chart from Hazardous Material Control & Management/HMIS CD ROM System.  
Shelf-life Specifications for Hazardous Materials, Final Report, NFESC, Pollution Prevention Division, Port Hueneme,  
CA 93043-4328*

# Compliance Corner

## Compliance Event Reminders:

- ⇒ 2015 Training & Activity Schedule will be available Dec.2014
- ⇒ FY15 Cross-Functional Team Meetings
- ⇒ FY15 1st Quarter Environmental Quality Control Committee (EQCC) Meeting— 1 December —1200-1330, GC Conference Room, Darling Hall



## Fort Gordon Sustainability Actions

### Annual Update of Aspects and Impacts

- ◆ **Environmental Aspect (Cause)** - The elements of an organization's activities, products, or services which can interact with the environment.
- ◆ **Environmental Impact (Effect)** - Any change to the environment whether adverse or beneficial, wholly or partially resulting from an organizations activities, products, or services.

### Examples of Aspects and Impacts

<u>ASPECT</u>	<u>IMPACT</u>
Air Emissions (Weapons/Munitions)	Air Pollution (particulates, CO2, Toxins)
Spill (POL)	Soil & Water (contamination, Improper disposal of waste)
Hazardous Material Use	Toxics contamination or addition to air, land, waterway, Hazardous waste generation.

## Outreach Actions



Earth Day Events Coming  
Spring-April 2015

### Common Environmental Acronyms

- ⇒ HWMP- Hazardous Waste Management Plan
- ⇒ SPCCP- Spill Prevention Control Countermeasure Plan
- ⇒ EPAS- Environmental Performance Assessment System
- ⇒ EO-Environmental Officer

Nov. 2014

**Look Before You Leap...****.. Smoke Detectors**

With winter knocking at our doors, chimneys will soon begin to smoke from the soft glow of warm fires and space heaters will be heating up. Unfortunately, they can bring devastation to a home if not properly used and overseen. And with the holidays approaching, fires from strung lights and candles can have the same affect. Maintaining your smoke alarm could save your life. Every home should have a smoke detector and a fire escape plan.

**The FACTS**

Having a working smoke alarm cuts your chances of dying in a fire in half!

Sixty percent of deaths resulting from house fires were those that had no working detectors. According to the National Fire Protection Agency " half of smoke alarm failure in reported home fires were due to missing or disconnected batteries. Nuisance alarms are the leading cause of occupants disconnecting their smoke alarm."

More than one third of the deaths caused by fires, no smoke alarms were present.

What you should do:

- Every bedroom should have a smoke detector installed inside the room, on the outside of each sleeping area and on all floors of the home.
- Install in living rooms and family rooms
- Smoke detectors should be tested once a month.

- Make sure you choose detectors that have a label of a recognized laboratory.
- When a smoke detector alarm goes off, get outside immediately and stay there!
- You should replace smoke detectors every 10 years.
- Install a detector in the basement as well as on the ceiling at the bottom of the stairs leading to the next level.
- Install at least 10 feet from cooking appliances to avoid false alarms.
- Install no more than 12 inches away from the ceiling. Remember, smoke rises.
- In rooms with pitched ceilings, install smoke alarms within 3 feet of the peak, but not in the apex of the peak.
- Do NOT place near windows, doors, ducts as drafts may inhibit proper alarming. ( source 3 )

**ENRMO**

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**Sources:**

- (<http://landing.edrnet.com/vaporintrusion.html> (article 1)  
 //www.epa.gov/oswer/vaporintrusion/basic.html)(article 1)  
<http://www.nfpa.org/safety-information/for-consumers/fire-and-safety-equipment/smoke-alarms>(article 5)  
<http://www.gsa.gov/portal/content/102228#5>(article 5)  
<http://www.alu.army.mil/alog/issues/may97/ms155.htm>(article 2)  
 Shelf-life Specifications for Hazardous Materials, Final Report, NFESC, Pollution Prevention Division, Port Hueneme, CA 93043 (article 2 )