

# GREEN MATTERS

~Fort Gordon, Ga



DPW, Environmental Natural Resources Division Newsletter

## Upcoming Events/ Training

- Oct. 7-8 Hazardous Materials/Waste Management Course, 0800-1600, Bldg 11307
- Oct. 19-23 Environmental Officer Course , 0800-1600, Bldg 11307
- Nov 3 1<sup>st</sup> QTR Cross-Functional Team Planning Meeting, 1300-1430, DPW Conf Rm, Bldg 14600
- Nov 4 Hazardous Materials/Waste Refresher Course, 0830;0945, Bldg 11307



## Compliance Corner

# Industrial Stormwater Best Management Practices

There are hundreds of stormdrains and critical stormwater run-off sites on Fort Gordon. None of them are connected to the sanitary sewer. This means the water that flows into the stormdrains and runs off pieces of property is dispersed into our environment completely untreated.

Ergo, the most basic rule of excellent stormwater pollution prevention is: ensure the stormwater water flowing into a stormdrain or off a piece of property is 100% pure.

The following are some best management practices (BMPs) to achieve this 100% goal. These best management practices are legal requirements (*General Permits GAR050000, General Permit GAG480000, and Army Regulation 200-1*).

**1. Make sure stormdrains are free, open, and unclogged.** Nothing near or around them. Anything that could spill should be far away, ideally covered and secondarily contained inside a building or appropriate storage shed or container. If items that could spill or leak must be outside, keep them covered with a tarp in a bermed area. If you have no bermed area, keep them elevated off the ground on a secondary containment pallet, or, if not available, a regular pallet. The point is, to keep anything that might run-off down a drain completely protected from wet weather, at all times.

If any sort of maintenance, painting, spraying, or construction is performed near a stormdrain, the stormdrain must be bermed or plugged to prevent anything that might possibly run off into it.

**2. Landscaping/Erosion Control items-** Sand piles, mulch piles, fertilizers, etc. should be stored if possible in a covered, bermed area. If no covered area is available, piles should be covered and secured with a tarp to prevent contaminants from entering the storm drain or running off a piece of property.

**3. Drip Pans-** Motorpools and vehicle maintenance facilities, please make sure drip pans are placed under EVERY vehicle that is going to be parked for 24 hours or more in the same spot.

**4. Batteries-** Batteries (new or used) really need to be stored inside. If you must store batteries outside, make sure they are completely covered and off the ground, preferably on a secondary containment pallet or in a heavy plastic tub. If you have used batteries that are to be shipped out, make sure you are able to show inspectors documentation of your efforts to do so.

**5. Piles (random or not) of Trash/Debris/Recyclables** - These should be covered on a pallet off the ground. If possible, put under cover inside. If your random pile(s) is due to be hauled off, please be prepared to show inspectors any efforts taken to get the items picked up and removed from the premises.

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Fort Gordon Green Matters

(Industrial Stormwater continued...)

**6. Trash Bins** –These should be closed/covered at all times, and nowhere near any stormdrain. Rolling trash bins usually have plugs to drain liquids. Always make sure your garbage bins aren't leaking. And the drain plug is always firmly in place.

Adhering to these 6 simple Stormwater Pollution Prevention Best Management practices can prevent massive amounts of pollution from entering Fort Gordon's normally pristinely verdant environment; greatly lessen danger to human and animal health and avoid possible violations and fines from the city of Augusta, the state of Georgia, and the EPA.

We at Fort Gordon Environmental greatly appreciate everyone's efforts to help keep our base immaculate!

(Note: Refreshments always provided at Stormwater Industrial Training)

## GRAVE MATTERS

### Cemeteries on Fort Gordon

Fort Gordon maintains 46 cemeteries within the installation boundary. With the exception of the German and Italian World War II Prisoner of War cemeteries, all other cemeteries were established before Camp Gordon was created in 1941. The more than 650 graves range in date from 1827 to 2011. While most of the cemeteries are small family cemeteries that can have as few as one grave, the larger cemeteries are often associated with a church. For instance the largest cemetery on Fort Gordon, with more than 80 marked graves, was the Linwood Methodist Church cemetery.

The Linwood Cemetery has several interesting features. The Sunday School at Linwood Methodist, constructed in 1858, was started and instructed by Mrs. Catherine Leitner McCormick for 43 years. Mrs. McCormick, who died in 1900, was buried in this cemetery and has one of the more prominent markers. During her tenure she also raised money for the erection of a Civil War monument in June 1866. This is the only memorial monument within a cemetery on Fort Gordon.

Another burial of interest in Linwood Cemetery is the grave of J. Burley Adams. Mr. Adams was convicted of murdering Walter Tolbert, a federal prohibition agent. In February 1928 Mr. Tolbert was shot returning from a raid on a whisky still. Burly Adams was executed by electric chair in May 1931.

prominent markers.



Aside from the interesting stories in the Linwood Cemetery, these cemeteries are important to local history and the descendants of those buried there. Family members and genealogist regularly visit cemeteries on Fort Gordon to pay respects to loved ones. To find out if a relative of yours is buried on Fort Gordon, a list of cemeteries and graves can be found at: <http://files.usgwarchives.net/ga/richmond/cemeteries/ftgordon.txt>. For information on how to visit any cemeteries on Fort Gordon please contact the Public Affairs office at (706) 791-1871.

## Food Expiration Dates

# Don't Let Them Scare You



Are you tired of tossing food out that is supposedly "expired"? Well, you don't have to according to experts. About \$165 billion worth of food gets tossed out every year, all because of the "expiration date". What does it really mean any way? "Sell by, best by, and use by"- let's take a closer look at what experts say they really mean

and how we can hang on to certain foods longer.

### **USE BY, BEST BY, BEST BEFORE**

According to The National Resource Defense council, this doesn't tell you when the food is bad but instead when the food should reach its "optimal quality". The USDA recommends that you buy the product before the "use by date". It simply means the last date that it will be at top quality. Foods that would fall under this category would be items such as mustard, mayonnaise, and peanut butter. The USDA does say that it is okay to eat these foods after the dates, but remember that we are not invincible from getting sick before or after these dates. The USDA goes on to state on their webpage that "if foods are mishandled, food borne bacteria can grow, and if pathogens are present, this can cause foodborne illness-before or after the date on the package." The one exception to the rule is infant formula. Parents should not use it or buy it after the "use by" date passes.

### **SELL BY**

You see this mostly on perishables like meat, poultry, seafood and milk. This let's the store know how long they can keep it on the shelf to sell. You should buy it before this date expires, but you can keep it longer at home stored accordingly.

### **EXPIRES ON**

You would probably see this mostly on baby formulas, and it is recommended by the FDA not to use after the expiration date.

### **Common Food Item's Shelf Life**

**Raw poultry**- Poultry is normally good for 2 to 3 days after purchase, stored in the refrigerator according to the USDA. Chicken is good for at least nine months in the freezer.

**Raw beef and pork**- These are good 3-5 days after purchase. The USDA does advise to consume the meat by the "use by" date for best quality. Raw beef and pork will be good for 6-12 months in the freezer.

**Eggs**- To extend eggs shelf life largely depends on the method of storage. In the refrigerator they can last from 3-5 weeks. They are good for a year in the freezer.

**Bacon**- Unopened bacon can last up to 2 weeks in the refrigerator. After it has been opened, you have 7 days to consume it before it would be bad.

**Lunch Meat**- Lunch meats once opened should be used within 3-5 days. According to the USDA, if unopened you have 2 weeks . You can freeze it for 1-2 months.

**Milk**- According to [StillTasty](#), milk is usually good for at least a week past the "sell by" date. If it smells sour, toss it. You can also freeze milk as well for about 3 months.

Just remember when you are looking to throw something out or not, just use common sense- if it smells bad or its appearance has changed, it is probably best to toss it.





# National Energy Awareness Month

October is the National Energy Awareness Month and a good opportunity for the Fort Gordon community to reflect the importance of energy.

Energy provides the power to heat and cool our facilities, making our indoor environment very comfortable throughout the year. We achieve this by planning, designing, constructing, and operating our facilities in the most efficient manner. We have increased the building envelope insulation to prevent the loss of energy. This means that our buildings stay warmer during the winter and cooler during the summer months. This allows us to save energy throughout the life of the building.



We are in the process of automating our central energy plants and distribution system to increase energy efficiency throughout the Fort Gordon campus. We have leveraged our base wide Utility Monitoring Control System (UMCS) to heat and cool our facilities only when occupied. This means that most folks will find their workspace a little bit cooler during the winter or warmer during the summer and back to normal temperatures during duty hours.

No matter how efficient we design a system, we need the communities help in keeping the doors and windows closed. This prevents the escape of conditioned air and the premature failure of equipment because it has to work several times harder to heat or cool the facility that is venting to the open environment. By keeping the doors and windows closed, you have done a great job in our energy conservation effort and have save our tax dollars.

## SOURCES

<http://www.stilltasty.com/>

<http://www.msn.com/en-us/foodanddrink/foodnews/the-vast-majority-of-expiration-dates-are-completely-bogus-%e2%80%94-heres-how-long-your-food-is-still-good/ss-BBlqGl6?ocid=iehp&fullscreen=true#image=1>

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