



RAMSEY COUNTY
 Saint Paul –
 Ramsey County
 Public Health

Winter 2016



The HazWaste Quarterly

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Providing useful information to businesses licensed as hazardous waste generators by Ramsey County Environmental Health

Annual reporting - avoiding common mistakes

Winter is here - once again!

Time to think about getting the family together, picking out those special gifts, and filling out your Ramsey County Hazardous Waste Annual Report/License Renewal Application (annual report).

Your annual report will be mailed in late December and must be completed and postmarked by January 31, 2017. If postmarked after this date, you will receive a late report penalty, equal to 10% of your total license fee.



Before submitting your report, carefully review it to ensure it's complete. If you have any questions, call your inspector; their name and phone number are at the bottom of the annual report. Make a copy for your records. This will be useful if we call you with questions.

Your annual report undergoes two reviews.

The initial review checks for these items:

- Has the form been signed?
- Have numerical values been entered in Column C – Waste Generated in 2016?

If either of these are missing, the report is immediately returned along with a letter noting the problem. Your report is not logged as "received" and the January 31, 2017 due date still applies. If the resubmitted, completed form is not postmarked by the due date, the late report penalty will be assessed. After passing the initial review, the report is logged in as received and is given to your hazardous waste inspector for the final review.

What does your inspector look for?

The first item reviewed is the business information at the top of the form. Have you changed owners or locations? If so, a new generator license application must be filled out. If not, the inspector's review will continue.

Here are some common problems and ways to avoid them. If your inspector finds any of these, they will call or visit you to correct them.

Not providing numerical values for Column C – Waste Generated. The number provided must be the actual amount of waste that was generated in 2016, which may differ from the volume shipped. Don't leave it blank or write "same as last year". Report accurately and have logs, receipts, or other records to back it up.

Not circling "gal" or "lbs". Choose the unit of measure by circling either gallons (gal) or pounds (lbs). Some common conversions are included on our instruction sheet.

Not providing any information in Column D – Transporter Name and EPA ID# or Column E – Facility Name/Address and EPA ID#. Supply this information for all hazardous waste transporters or facilities you used. Wastes shipped on a bill of lading or waste tracking invoice are generally exempt from this requirement.

Providing EPA ID#s that do not match the Transporter or Facility. Ensure that the EPA ID#s are correct. This information can be found on your hazardous waste manifest or by contacting the companies you use to manage your waste.

Not providing any information in Column F – Management or Disposal Method. Indicate what method was used for each waste; the instruction sheet has a list.

Not providing numerical values in Column G – Waste On Site. Provide the actual amount of waste remaining on-site at the end of 2016. This information will be useful to you next year when completing your annual report.

Remember, to be considered "on time", the signed, completed annual report must be postmarked no later than January 31, 2017. Call your inspector with any questions!

Attention Self Audit Generators!

Are you a photo-finisher, chiropractor or dental clinic? Have you received AND submitted your Self-Audit report by the November 15th deadline? If so, you DO NOT need to fill out an Annual Report.

Comings...and Goings

Michael Reed

We are pleased to announce the promotion of Michael Reed to the position of Environmental Health Supervisor. Michael joined the county in 1992 as a hazardous waste inspector. Michael has extensive experience and knowledge on both solid and hazardous waste issues. In his new position, Michael will be managing the Solid and Hazardous Waste Compliance program. Michael can be reached at 651.266.1181 or michael.reed@co.ramsey.mn.us. Congratulations, Michael!



Larry Carlson

Effective October 1, 2016, Larry Carlson retired from his position as Environmental Health Supervisor after 33 years with Ramsey County. During his time with the county, Larry worked as a sanitarian for seven years, inspecting food, beverage and lodging facilities, swimming pools, manufactured home parks, public wells, and public health nuisances; as a solid waste inspector and supervisor for seven years, licensing and inspecting transfer stations, solid waste haulers, waste processing facilities; and lastly, as an Environmental Health Supervisor, leading the Solid and Hazardous Waste Compliance program for the past 19 years. Larry's personality, attitude, knowledge, and all-around presence will be missed! Join us in wishing him well in his retirement.



Reminder

The sunset date for puncturing non-RCRA empty aerosol cans is effective on January 1, 2017. For more information on this issue, you can view the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's (MPCA) fact sheet at www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/w-hw4-00.pdf.



Have a Project or Problem But No Time to Tackle It? Let MnTAP Help!

For over 30 years, the Minnesota Technical Assistance Program (MnTAP) intern program has placed highly qualified engineering students with companies to conduct projects focused on water and energy efficiency, pollution prevention, and raw material use.

These Ramsey County businesses partnered with the MnTAP intern program to implement actionable recommendations for waste reduction and cost savings:

Lloyd's Barbeque Company

Their intern project centered on improving water and energy efficiency and maximizing waste reduction to help them meet their environmental goals. The intern identified and repaired lawn irrigation systems, optimized the set point of both the hot water pump equipment and the wash tank, saving over 2.2 million gallons of water and 50,000 therms of gas energy for an annual savings of nearly \$57,000.

Minnesota State Agencies

Lafayette Road in St. Paul is home to four state agencies tasked with the requirement to recycle at least 60% of their waste. Working with these agencies, the intern analyzed current procedures and provided recommendations. Four suggestions were made to all sites: start or improve organics recycling, improve traditional recycling programs by centralizing waste stations and improving staff education, establish centralized office supply purchasing and reuse programs, and

offer reusable serviceware and take out containers in cafeterias. Combined, these recommendations have the potential to reduce or recycle over 190,000 lbs. of waste and save nearly \$65,000 annually.

Cemstone Products Company

This company has numerous plants which use both private wells and municipal water sources to produce ready mix concrete products. The company's environmental goal was to reduce water usage. The intern identified several opportunities, including using automatic shut off nozzles, reusing reclaimed water for production, installing automated truck washing systems and staff training. These partially implemented recommendations have a one-year savings potential of over 15 million gallons of water, 5,900 hours of labor and \$320,000.



A MnTAP engineering intern can help you identify waste reduction opportunities, including energy and water efficiency solutions. Applications are being accepted through January 15, 2017, for the summer of 2017. Apply NOW! Applications are available online at www.mntap.umn.edu/intern/index.htm or contact Paul Pagel at 612.624.4638, ppagel@umn.edu.

Did You Know?



- One gallon of gas can contaminate 750,000 gallons of drinking water, making it undrinkable.
- In one year, traffic congestion alone wastes 3 billion gallons of gas.
- Driving 75 mph uses up to 20% more gasoline than driving 55 mph to go the same distance.
- If each commuter car carried just one more person (for a day), we'd save 600,000 gallons of gasoline and prevent 12 million pounds of carbon dioxide from polluting the atmosphere.
- In the U.S., every one mile per gallon increase in average fuel efficiency reduces carbon dioxide emissions by 40 billion pounds per year, the rough equivalent of closing six coal fired power plants.
- If only 10,000 car owners who'd neglected tune-ups started getting their cars serviced regularly, some 90 million pounds of carbon dioxide could be kept out of the atmosphere per year.
- Out of a barrel of crude oil, you can get 2.5 quarts of virgin motor oil, while it takes only a gallon of used motor oil to get the same amount of high quality re-refined motor oil.
- Of all the water contamination caused by oil, three-quarters of it comes from land sources, including household products, like motor oil, paint and thinner.



Questions, Questions (and some answers!)



For years we have stored our used oil filters in a 55 gallon drum. Sometimes the lid is open and sometimes we put the cover on top. Our neighboring business tells me that we are in violation of the regulations. Could you tell me how I am supposed to store these filters to comply with the state and county regulations?

Ramsey County inspection staff enforce the same set of regulations for used oil filters that apply state-wide.

Used oil, used oil sorbents and used oil filters are all required to be stored in a closed container and labeled with a descriptive name that identifies the contents.

A closed container means that the cover is in place and latched, the bungs tightened and funnels closed.

There are few exceptions. Of course, the containers will be open when you are adding the waste or removing it (i.e. pumping it out), but before you walk away, you must close the container. You are allowed to drain your used oil filters overnight in an open container tray but when you arrive the next day, these filters must be placed into the container and closed.

Change can take some time.

Consider that it may take a little time for your staff to adapt to these changes. Follow up with your employees on how their progress is coming on maintaining a closed container. You might discover that the container they are using isn't practical or easy to use. Check with your vendor or our hazardous waste management list for containers that

have a levered lid. This type of lid makes it easier to open and close your container, increasing the likelihood of employees maintaining proper storage conditions. Please contact your inspector if you have questions or need additional resources.

Resources for your business.

The pictures below depict closed, labeled containers being used to store used oil and used oil filters. If you need to find a replacement container for your current used oil storage, visit our website at www.ramseycounty.us/business/recycling-waste/hazardous-waste/management-disposal and click on the link for our hazardous waste management list. On this list you will find both container and tank providers.



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Environmental Health staff conduct solid and hazardous waste inspections, provide technical assistance, outreach and training to Ramsey County businesses.

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More information?

Phone: 651.266.1199 | Fax: 651.266.1177
www.ramseycounty.us/business/recycling-waste/hazardous-waste



Comments on the newsletter?

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