

Region 2 Environmental Protection Agency  
Healthcare Initiative Update May 3, 2007

The Agency has received 182 disclosures covering 668 healthcare facilities to date. Due to the initiative, over 250,000 pounds of hazardous waste, 2,900,000 gallons of oil and 50000 pounds of CFCs are now being properly managed. In addition, 1,690 residential units have been provided with lead based paint notifications as required by TSCA.

There were a total of 3,8341 violations reported. The breakdown is as follows:

- 72% RCRA
- 16% CAA
- 6% EPCRA
- 4% CWA
- 1% each for TSCA and SDWA.

From the results of a survey sent to healthcare facilities, the following changes were made to ensure compliance:

- 35% handling, processing, monitoring and O&M
- 32% paperwork, labeling, reporting
- 14% training 14%
- 12% implementation of P2 and waste minimization
- 7% implementation of an EMS.

Also from the results of the survey, 71% of the facilities without an EMS are planning to create and implement one.

The top five money saving activities reported were (amounts are approximate):

- RMW management/segregation – \$350,000
- Chemical, electronics, battery & HW recycling/exchange programs – \$250,000
- Installed high-efficiency motors, up-graded light fixtures to t-8's, and new electronic ballasts – \$156,000
- Disposable RMW containers/bulb crushers - \$114,000
- Changed to reusable sharps containers - \$50,000

The top five pollutant reductions reported were:

- Battery Recycling – 15 tons
- RMW Segregation – 475 tons
- Electronics-EDP equipment recycling – 75 tons
- Sharps containers – 10,500 units
- Integrated pest management – 80% reduction in pesticides.

Five simple waste reduction activities reported were:

- Install automatic light sensors
- Install water saver plumbing fixtures
- Send kitchen grease to a reclamation facility
- Switch from disposable to reusable plates, eating utensils, and cups for cafeteria services
- Reduce the use of disposable cleaning materials.

Most common mercury reduction activities were:

- Upgraded light fixtures to t-8's and installed new electronic ballasts
- Replaced mercury monometers & thermometers
- Implemented computer monitor and electronics recycling program
- Collected and recycled amalgam at dentist and silver reclaimer installed at cancer treatment center
- Initiated a hospital-wide mercury reduction and recycling program