

The Hazardous Materials Manager

EASTERN WASHINGTON CHAPTER OF THE ACADEMY OF CERTIFIED HAZARDOUS MATERIALS MANAGERS
NEWSLETTER



Executive Committee's Corner



It is hard to believe the year is half over and summer is already here! The days are getting longer and the pool covers are off. It is great to see the boaters, kayakers, and campers enjoying themselves this time of year.

Eastern Washington Chapter of the Academy of Certified Hazardous Materials Managers

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In April, EWC hosted the State of Washington's Nuclear Waste Program Director, Alex Smith. Alex shared many of her thoughts about Hanford and the other Washington facilities in Ecology's purview (see article this issue).

Our next EWC presentation will provide insights into the environmental and safety challenges of a local food processing plant. In September, we will have Washington State Department of Ecology provide a presentation on the newly promulgated waste regulations. Also stay tuned for more information on the upcoming CHMM overview course to be held in Fall.

A survey is being developed to determine what you want in the way of programs and tours. Do you want to participate in a community project that helps schools package hazardous waste? Or, do you want a speaker that will discuss Homeland Security? Perhaps you have been waiting to take a tour of a sanitation or water plant? If you have any thoughts or ideas, let one of the EWC officers know. The officers this year are: Andrea Hopkins, President at (509) 373-5395, Randal Fox, Vice President at (509) 373-6024, Roni Ashley, Secretary at (509) 372-9627, or Chuck Mulkey, Treasurer at (509) 373-4077.

We hope you have a safe and happy summer.



EWC Hosts Alex Smith, Washington State Department of Ecology's Nuclear Waste Program Director



On April 18, 2017, Ms. Smith shared her impressions of the Hanford cleanup with the EWC and guests. Ms. Smith's presentation was provided on the day she had been on the job exactly one year. She became the head of Ecology's Nuclear Waste Program on April 18, 2016. Since then she has worked many Hanford issues, including at the Tank Farms (such as AY-102 and vapors).

During the introduction by Andrea Hopkins, CHMM, it was stated that prior to joining the Nuclear Waste Program, Ms. Smith was the chief environmental attorney for the Port of Seattle and the Director of Environmental Programs for the Port of Olympia. She also served eight years as a Washington State Assistant Attorney General, where she assisted with regulatory enforcement actions that came before the Pollution Control Hearings Board, including those involving Hanford and the U. S. Department of Energy (U.S. DOE). This past year, she has met with the stakeholders, tribes and other groups with an interest in Hanford, including Hanford Watch, Heart of America, Oregon DEQ, and the Washington Building Trades.

Ms. Smith said Hanford is complicated and presents unique challenges. Some of the challenges she mentioned are with the differing regulatory authorities (i.e., the Tri Parties) and with the Department Health that oversees radioactive activities. Other challenges are RCRA/CERCLA integration, the Hanford budget, cleanup problems involving multi-generations, and numerous acronyms. She also touched upon the delay of Yucca Mountain as a nuclear waste repository. Another discussion topic was the reissue of the Hanford RCRA permit. Many questions from the audience were addressed such as Ecology's goals and objectives.

She said she knows Hanford has accomplished a great deal of good work and she supports continuing success. She said things will work better with mutual respect and with a collaborative relationship. She said there is common ground and a path forward.



Regulatory News

Suspects Dump Hazardous Materials in Walmart Lot

Monica Vendituoli, Fayetteville Observer, June 16, 2017



RAEFORD, AR — Deputies with the Hoke County Sheriff's Office are asking for the public's help in finding at least four people who unloaded drums with sulfuric acid in a Walmart parking lot.

A white van towing a large, open trailer pulled into the Walmart at 4545 Fayetteville Road, a news release said. Deputies obtained surveillance footage showing at least four people unloading blue drums from the van in the parking lot.

The drums were left in the parking lot for a few hours until someone called the Sheriff's Office. The release said deputies saw that the drums were labeled as containing sulfuric acid and at least one of the drums had been unsealed.

Sulfuric acid is a chemical used in a number of industrial contexts such as making fertilizer and processing metal. It can cause severe burns and tissue damage if it comes into contact with skin or mucous membranes.

The release said an investigation into the incident is ongoing. Anyone with information is asked to call the detective division of the Sheriff's Office at 910-875-5111.

Emerging Technologies for Detecting, Identifying and Analyzing Hazardous Materials

By Angelo DePalma, Lab Manager, June 12, 2017



Rapid, reliable field detection of hazardous materials is a top priority in both private and government security markets. Simultaneously, mass spectrometers (MSs) and gas chromatographs (GCs) have undergone democratization through miniaturization, simplification, enhanced user-friendliness, and applicability to specific tasks.

Rather than relying on GC to separate explosive residue components, IonSense uses its direct analysis in real time (DART) ambient ionization source to generate ions from samples with little or no sample preparation. DART generates ions from almost any type of sample—gas, liquid, or solid—which makes it ideal for screening or in some cases confirming the presence of explosives in either unexploded or detonated form. The ionization method also works for drugs, toxic chemicals, chemical warfare agents, inks and dyes, pesticides, and food adulterants.

DART ionizes compounds by combining thermal desorption to vaporize the sample, and Penning ionization to generate an ionizing gas region that surrounds sample molecules. For samples collected through swabbing, analytes flow directly into the DART gas stream, where they ionize, typically by addition of a proton to the intact molecule. Protonated species enter the atmospheric inlet of the MS, where they are analyzed in seconds.

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Explosion analysis almost always includes unexploded materials in the residue. “The major difference between detonated and undetonated materials is the quantity of unexploded material,” Musselman says, since “nothing burns completely.”

The benefit of DART is speed. The drawback is that, lacking a chromatographic front end, spectra tend to be more complex for some sample types.

DART is in place at some federal forensics facilities and some state laboratories but is not yet mainstream in municipal crime labs, airport security, or border protection. Forensics tends to be a late adopter of new technology in comparison with other analytical areas.

New Fall Safety Training Requirements Now Effective

OSHA published a final rule late last year aimed at preventing 6,000 injuries and 30 deaths annually due to same-level falls and falls to lower levels. Employees who are exposed to fall from height hazards or use equipment covered by the final rule were required to be trained by May 17, 2017. Training must be understandable, conducted by a qualified person and at a minimum, cover the following:

- Nature of fall hazards
- How to recognize fall hazards
- Procedures to minimize fall hazards
- Procedures for installing, inspecting, operating, maintaining and disassembling personal fall protection systems that will be used
- Correct use of personal fall protective system equipment, including hook-up, anchoring and tie-off techniques
- Manufacturer-specified methods of equipment inspection and storage
- Placing and securing dockboards (if used)
- Proper rigging and use of rope descent systems (if used)
- Proper set-up and use of designated areas (if used)

Qualified trainers are individuals with specialized training and extensive experience in fall from height hazards and protection.

Eastern Washington Chapter (EWC) is a Chapter of the AHMP

The Alliance of Hazardous Materials Professionals (AHMP), formerly the Academy of Certified Hazardous Materials Managers, Inc. (ACHMM), is a professional association with a membership of more than 4,000 of the nation's leading experts in environment, health, safety and security management. AHMP members are distributed across 56 chapters in 37 states plus the District of Columbia. In 2006, AHMP established its first international chapter in Bangalore, India.

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AHMP is the only national organization devoted to the professional advancement of the hazardous materials management field.

AHMP envisions a world where the natural environment is unburdened by pollution; workers are exposed only to healthy and safe conditions; and hazardous materials are used and transported safely and efficiently. As it has for more than two decades, AHMP works to advance the field of hazardous materials management to make its vision a reality. Its core purpose is to foster a community of professionals and to jointly advocate for the public recognition of the value of the Certified Hazardous Material Manager (CHMM) credential and other EHS&S credentials, the standards they represent and the professionals who uphold them.

Vision

AHMP is the premier global leader for hazardous materials professionals.

Mission

AHMP maximizes our community, voice, knowledge exchange, and management support of hazardous materials professionals, making our world safer and healthier.

Values

- We are trusted, ethical advisors, operating with professional integrity.
- We believe in lifelong learning, continuous transfer of knowledge and professional growth.
- We foster two-way, transparent, and frequent communication.
- We are good stewards, accountable for our responsibilities and to our communities.
- We are innovative, accessible, and seek excellence in order to be sustainable.
- We take pride in AHMP, our professional contributions, and the benefits they bring to others.

