

## Faulty gas caps – hard on your wallet and the environment

Thirty gallons of gas a year—lost due to a faulty gas cap that allows gasoline to evaporate from your tank. At today's prices, this could cost you about \$90. If you manage a fleet, faulty gas caps could be costing your businesses even more.

These escaping gas fumes, when combined with heat and sunlight, cause ozone, which is the type of air pollution of the most concern in the Kansas City area and other areas of the state like Wichita. Ground-level ozone is especially dangerous to human health, as it can trigger a variety of health problems like asthma, even at very low levels. It may cause permanent lung damage after long-term exposure, and can damage plants and ecosystems. According to EPA figures, it is responsible for \$500 million in reduced crop production.

Johnson County has been testing county and employees' vehicles for the last two years and found more than one out of every 10 gas caps leak. "If a cap leaks, about 175 pounds of pollution are escaping every year. With more than 1.5 million vehicles in the KC metropolitan area, that's more than 13 tons of ozone-causing pollution being emitted every

year just from leaking gas caps," said Jennifer Logan, Johnson County Environmental Department,

The test involves taking a gas cap and attaching it to pressurizing equipment to check for leakage. It's a simple test and takes only a few minutes to perform. In the Kansas City and Wichita areas, several public agencies have the testing equipment and provide the service at public events. The Wichita Air Quality Program, Johnson County Environmental Department, the city of Olathe, the unified government of Wyandotte County, and the Mid-America Regional Council all have testing equipment and may be contacted for testing information.

If you suspect you have a faulty gas cap, either test it or get a new one. New gas caps costs less than \$15 and are sold at most automotive stores. If you have a fleet that you would like to test, contact one of the programs in your area, or call SBEAP at 800-578-8898. Read more about Kansas City ozone at [www.sharetheair.com/](http://www.sharetheair.com/) or Wichita air quality at [www.wichita.gov/CityOffices/Environmental/AirQuality/](http://www.wichita.gov/CityOffices/Environmental/AirQuality/).

## Hazardous waste generator training—do you need it?

All regulated hazardous waste generators need to be trained. In the case of EPA generators, annual training is required. K.A.R. 28-31-4(h) defines these training requirements. Attending different trainings takes time, but is a great opportunity to pick up new information and tips for compliance and waste reduction. There are several occasions to attend free hazardous waste generator training sessions over the next few months, including the following:

- Kansas Environmental Conference, Aug. 22–24
  - Basic training, Aug. 22
  - Kansas generator training, Aug. 23
- The Bureau of Waste Management (BWM) will host 10 different sessions around the state in November. Those who pre-register will get a certificate. Register at <http://www.kdheks.gov/waste/index.html>.

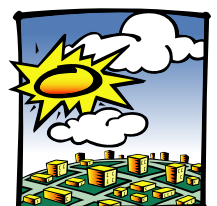
- SBEAP has an on-line training for Kansas generators. You can find this training at [www.sbeap.org](http://www.sbeap.org), under the "Training Tools" link.

If you have additional questions about your hazardous waste training requirements, call your inspector, the BWM, at 785-296-1604, or SBEAP at 800-578-8898.

Don't miss the  
Kansas Environmental  
Conference

Aug. 22–24, 2006  
Topeka, Kansas

[www.kdheks.gov/sbcs/environment\\_conf.html](http://www.kdheks.gov/sbcs/environment_conf.html)



K A N S A S

SBEAP

## Don't guess, assess—Try the new water quality protection assessment tool

A new tool has been developed for agriculture service centers to assess the impact their operations have on the environment. Located at [www.sbeap.org](http://www.sbeap.org) under the "Training Tools" link, this Web-based tool, developed by the Small Business Environmental Assistance Program (SBEAP), is especially focused on protecting surface water and groundwater quality. A user begins by answering inventory questions to determine what assessment topics apply to his or her facility. Assessment topics include the following:

- General housekeeping
- Pesticide storage and handling
- Fertilizer storage and handling
- Spill prevention, control, and countermeasure planning
- Liquid fuel storage and handling
- Grain storage and handling
- Water supply and wells
- Solid and hazardous waste
- Wastewater

- Storm water and erosion management
- Equipment/vehicle maintenance and repair

The assessment can be done in stages, and the tool will save the answers for a two-week period so the user can continue from where he or she last stopped. A report of the user's assessment results can be printed.

There are several benefits to going through the assessment. A facility can identify and prioritize areas that need improvement. Making such improvements can lessen the facility's chances of surface water and groundwater contamination. This is especially critical when nearby water is the source of the facility's or community's drinking water supply. Another benefit is the ability to avoid time-consuming complaint investigations and possible litigation.

Similar assessment tools are under development. If you have questions, please contact SBEAP specialist Barb Johnson at 800-578-8898. Look for other assessment and training tools at [www.sbeap.org](http://www.sbeap.org) under "Training Tools."

## EnviroLines quick reads

### When is open burning legal?

Well, almost never! A local burn permit issued by your fire authority doesn't mean it's okay to burn your business waste. Most open burning in the state is not permitted, due to contaminants released that are detrimental to the health of persons living in that area and to the environment. Use of a homemade or old incinerator to burn cardboard or wood pallets is not a legal disposal option either. Read more about open burning and legal disposal alternatives in a new SBEAP fact sheet available soon at <http://www.sbeap.org/whatsnew.asp>.

### What do I do about wood waste?

Wood waste is a real problem for several industries in Kansas. It should not take up valuable municipal landfill space, and even some construction and demolition landfills prohibit wood wastes like pallets. From an environmental standpoint, it should be minimized, and wood waste generated should be either reused or sent for compost. From an economical standpoint, this is not always a feasible option. A new fact sheet that details Kansas-specific wood waste disposal options is under development and will be available at <http://www.sbeap.org/whatsnew.asp> this fall.

### Pollution prevention interns—sign up for summer '07

The Pollution Prevention (P2) Intern Program is designed to link top-level engineering and environmental sciences students with business and industry. These collaborations will focus on projects to reduce industrial emissions and wastes, while benefiting the Kansas environment. Students will work with a technical advisor and host company to identify P2 projects that reduce or eliminate—

- hazardous and solid wastes
- energy use
- air emissions
- employee risks
- water contaminants

By developing effective waste-reducing solutions, P2 interns' work will help companies reduce operating costs, regulatory compliance burdens, and their environmental footprint.

Businesses will gain well-developed options for improved operating efficiency, cost savings, reduced waste, and decreased regulatory burden. If your business has wanted to explore P2 opportunities for your operations but hasn't had the time or resources, the P2 Intern Program represents a unique opportunity to make headway on that new project. Business applications will be accepted until Dec. 31, 2006, and are available at <http://www.sbeap.org/internships.html>.

## Small Business Environmental Assistance Program

The mission of the Kansas Small Business Environmental Assistance Program (SBEAP) is to help Kansas small businesses comply with environmental regulations and identify pollution prevention opportunities. SBEAP is funded through a contract with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. SBEAP services are free and confidential. For more information, call 800-578-8898, send an e-mail to [SBEAP@ksu.edu](mailto:SBEAP@ksu.edu), or visit our Web site at [www.sbeap.org](http://www.sbeap.org).



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## Dear EnviroMike:

Our facility recently expanded and went from a small quantity generator to a Kansas hazardous waste generator (we generate 55 pounds or more and less than 2,200 pounds of hazardous waste per month). Someone told me as a Kansas generator, I can't throw fluorescent tubes in the trash anymore. Is this so?

—Signed,  
Fluorescent Lamp Frederick

Dear Frederick,

It depends on the amount of mercury contained in the lamp. As a regulated Kansas generator of hazardous waste, fluorescent lamps cannot legally be disposed of in the trash, unless proof is provided that these lamps pass the toxicity characteristic leaching procedure (TCLP) for mercury. Proof can be obtained from the lamp manufacturer, but must be specific to the type and age of the lamp. If this justification is used for discarding lamps in the trash, be sure all lamps are the type and age covered by the manufacturer's letter of proof. Note, "green tips" suggest a low-mercury lamp, but it may not pass the TCLP test. A KDHE technical guidance document on spent lamps is available at [www.kdheks.gov/waste/guidance/hw95-01.pdf](http://www.kdheks.gov/waste/guidance/hw95-01.pdf). Even if a lamp passes the TCLP for mercury, it still contains some amount of mercury, so land filling is NOT the environmentally preferred method for handling these lamps.



Widely handled wastes, such as fluorescent lamps, batteries, and mercury-containing thermostats, may be handled as universal wastes instead of hazardous wastes if they are intact and sent for recycling rather than disposal. This relieves some regulatory burden and paperwork related to handling these wastes and means that this waste stream would not have to be included in monthly hazardous waste totals. When recycling universal wastes, comply with the following:

- Collect the waste stream in a sturdy, compatible container (for lamps this is usually the same box in which new lamps were shipped).
- Label the container according to the contents – universal waste lamps or used batteries.
- Date the container with the first date waste was placed in it.
- Keep the container closed.
- Send the waste out for recycling at least once each calendar year.
- Provide some basic training for employees on management and response to a spill or release.

## 2006 Kansas Environmental Conference

Aug. 22–24, 2006

Capitol Plaza Hotel/Maner Conference Center

Topeka, Kansas

The 2006 Kansas Environmental Conference, hosted by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Division of Environment, will provide updates on environmental issues, new technologies, regulatory information, and pollution prevention. Anyone interested in environmental regulations, pollution prevention, or the

status of the environment in Kansas is invited to attend.

For more information, visit the conference Web site at [http://www.kdheks.gov/sbcs/environment\\_conf.html](http://www.kdheks.gov/sbcs/environment_conf.html), or contact Cathy Colglazier at 785-296-0669 or by e-mail at [ccolglaz@kdhe.state.ks.us](mailto:ccolglaz@kdhe.state.ks.us).

## Envirolines events calendar

Kansas Environmental Conference, Aug. 22–24, 2006; Topeka, Kan.; [www.kdheks.gov/sbcs/environment\\_conf.html](http://www.kdheks.gov/sbcs/environment_conf.html)

Air Innovations Conference, Sept. 6–8, 2006; Denver, Colo.; [www.cleanairinfo.com/airinnovations/](http://www.cleanairinfo.com/airinnovations/)

Kansas Safety and Health Conference, Oct. 3–6, 2006; Topeka, Kan.; [www.dol.ks.gov/wc/html/events\\_DBR.html](http://www.dol.ks.gov/wc/html/events_DBR.html)

Hazardous Waste Generator Workshops, 10 workshops in six locations throughout Kansas during November 2006; [www.kdheks.gov/waste/training/hwgenworkshops-fall06.pdf](http://www.kdheks.gov/waste/training/hwgenworkshops-fall06.pdf)

Hospitals for a Healthy Environment Workshop, Dec. 7, 2006; Kansas City, Kan.; [www.sbeap.org](http://www.sbeap.org)

### Save the date!

**Air Quality 102 – Air Emissions Workshop**  
February 7, 2007 – Salina  
February 13, 2007 – Wichita  
February 28, 2007 – Overland Park

## Monthly EHS Networks

**Wichita Certified Hazardous Material Managers** meet the last Thursday each month over lunch. Contact Nancy Larson at 800-578-8898 for more information.

**Southeast Kansas Environmental Health and Safety Committee** meets the second Wednesday of each month over lunch. Contact Joe Wright at 800-247-9105 for more information.

**EHS Network of Central Kansas**—visit <http://www.geocities.com/environmentalhealthsafety/> for details about monthly meetings.

**Heartland Chapter Academy of Certified Hazardous Materials Managers (ACHMM)**—visit <http://www.kumc.edu/hcachmm> for more information.

**Salina Safety Network** normally meets the first Friday of each month over noon hour at Western Sizzlin', 1708 W. Crawford St., Salina, Kan. Contact Barb Johnson at 800-578-8898 for more information.