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ROCKY MOUNTAIN FABRICARE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

SEPT./OCT. 2003
VOL. 18, NO. 5

SERVING THE DRYCLEANERS OF COLORADO, UTAH AND WYOMING

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AND WASTE MANAGEMENT DIVISION GENERATOR ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



NEW PROGRAM!! NEW SERVICE!!

The Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division is announcing a New Program to provide hazardous waste compliance assistance to you!!

THIS PROGRAM IS CALLED:

GENERATOR ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

WHAT IS THE GENERATOR ASSISTANCE PROGRAM?

The Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division is excited to announce a new program - the Generator Assistance Program, or GAP. This program has three primary objectives:

TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO YOU IN UNDERSTANDING AND IMPLEMENTING THE HAZARDOUS WASTE REGULATIONS.

GAP is primarily intended to provide on-site compliance assistance to you at your facility. We believe this on-site feedback to be very effective in giving you specific information directly applicable to your operations. All you have to do is ask for us to come out!

TO DEVELOP TOOLS THAT MAKE HAZARDOUS WASTE COMPLIANCE EASIER FOR YOU.

Our Division already has an extensive library of hazardous waste guidance

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Registration Form

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2003-2004**

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UTAH UPDATE

By: Sharon Dutcher

We spent two and a half days at Clean Show 03 in Las Vegas last month. That was not nearly enough time to see and do all of the things we wanted. It was both an exhausting and invigorating experience. There seemed to be miles of aisles filled with new products to try and new equipment to watch. I really covet all that shiny new equipment.

Although we don't do linen service, I had to spend a little time watching the big flat work presses and folders in action. It is impressive watching a machine that can press, fold, sort and tie a ribbon around towels. All that production and only one employee!

Tensioning presses are still getting the most attention in the dry-cleaning arena. There appears to be a real advantage to these whether you primarily dry clean or wet clean most garments. There have been a number of improvements over the past few years in the ease of use and reliability. And of course, there were always crowds around the shirt finishing units, especially the all-in-one units and the rotary body presses.

The best part of any trade show is the people you meet. Possibly, because it was geographically close, Utah dry-cleaners attended in large numbers. There seemed to be a familiar face at every turn. At one time, there more Utah competitors talking together at the Enviro-Forensics booth than I have seen in the same room for a good long time. It gives me hope that we can develop a strong RMFA branch here. These are great people to talk with and share ideas.

Don't forget, Roland will be teaching his "Basic Spot Removal" course at Mendenhall Equipment on Oct. 25th, 2003. It's a great way to train a new spotter or refresh your own skills. Roland has also offered to bring an "Advanced Spotting" course to our area if there is enough interest. Let Roland or me know if you would like to attend either of these classes..

Sharon

RMFA MISSION STATEMENT:

The purpose of the ROCKY MOUNTAIN FABRICARE ASSOCIATION is to enhance the image and viability of the fabricare industry through education, and development of the skills, talents and professionalism of its membership.

RMFA PURPOSES AND OBJECTIVES:

To promote, develop and protect the interests of the garment and textile maintenance industry. To improve the quality of services rendered by industry by providing an opportunity for the exchange of experiences, ideas and opinions through meetings, discussion and educational programs. To develop and encourage the practice of high standards and professional conduct and safety within the workplace among the membership.



Preventative Maintenance - A Necessity to Achieve Quality Drycleaning

By: Bob Blacker

Preventative maintenance is an area that constantly receives a lot of lip service, but for some reason, the message seems to get lost in our day to day routines. Preventative maintenance on the drycleaning machine is essential in order to achieve quality and trouble free operation, not to mention effective drycleaning. If button traps and pump strainers are not cleaned on regular intervals, there are problems with solvent flow, draining, and extracting. This places a lot of undo stress on the pump, drive motor, and belts, causing premature wear. The same goes for air line oilers that are not properly maintained, which in turn causes the pneumatic valves to stick, and not operate properly which in turn causes all kind of operational problems. Water separators that look like a high school biology project gone bad are the most prevalent cause of odor in a drycleaning system. In addition, improperly maintained stills will not only cause odor problems, but can be a huge waste of steam pressure, and perc consumption. These are only a few of the problems I seem to encounter on a daily basis, all of which could be avoided with a little regular and preventative maintenance. In a time when everyone is looking for ways to save on their energy consumption, it only makes sense that we keep our equipment in top working order. Below I will give a rough outline of items that need to be maintained and a time frame for each. It should be noted that these are merely suggestions and that operators should consult their manufacturers equipment manuals for items specific to their particular equipment.

Every load

Check and remove any debris in the wheel before processing the next load.

Every 2 to 3 loads

Clean lint from the lint filter in the drying chamber.
Remove debris from the button trap.

Daily

Check filter pressures and bleed air from the housing if necessary.
Check refrigeration sight glass for bubbles.
Clean pump strainer and pre-lint filter if so equipped.
Check appearance of perc/solvent and water levels in water separator.
Drain still - predicated on volume and use.
Drain water from airline separator.
Desorb/regenerate carbon absorber (if needed).

Weekly

Check oil level in airline oiler, refill if less than 1/4 full.
Check for perc/solvent leaks - refer to your detection and inspection forms.
Drain and scrape the still - more often based on volume and use.
Drain and replace water in the water separator.
Thoroughly clean lint filters.

Monthly

Check refrigeration coils for potential lint build up.
Check condenser coils.
Grease bearings and motors according to manufacturers recommendations.
Thoroughly clean water separator, and inspect for clogs.
Check belt tension - adjust if necessary.

Annually

Clean heating and cooling coil fins.
Clean condenser coils.
Check all coils for leaks.

As I stated before, this is only a suggested list of maintenance items, you should consult your machine manufacturers manual for specific preventative/regular maintenance items. Most of us would not even consider not maintaining our automobiles, so it only makes sense to maintain one of the most important pieces of equipment in the plant, not to mention the unnecessary headaches you will avoid. You will also be one step closer to providing quality cleaning for your customers. If I can be of assistance with your quality improvement initiatives or any other concerns you may have with your drycleaning system, feel free to contact me at (303) 679-0387.

Robert Blacker
R.R. Street & Co. Inc.

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Education Committee

By: Joe Blaha

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- Signal 33 Boiler Treatment
- Marathon & Puritan Filters
- Hyflo
- Seitz Dry & Wet Products
- Qualitex Press Pads
- Labtest Press Pads & Plates
- Steel Wool Pads
- F.H. Bonn Laundry Press Pads & Covers
- Nylon Press Flannel
- Southern Mills Flatwork Ironer Pads & Covers
- Flatwork Ironer Aprons, Belts, Lubricants & Cleaners
- Prime Laundry Products
- Coin Vend Soaps & Dispensers
- Procter & Gamble Products
- Kaybro Laundry Products
- Textile Care Laundry Products
- Ecolab Laundry Products
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- Irons & Accessories
- Safety Supplies
- Janitorial & Maintenance Supplies & Equipment
- Paper Towels, Toilet Tissue & Facial Tissue
- Cotton Towels & Linens
- Bar Mops, Shop Towels
- Armstrong Steam Traps
- Ball Valves, Check Valves, Safety Relief Valves
- Burks Return System Pumps
- Equipment, Parts & Access.
- In House Service Department

The arrangements for the 2004 version of the RMFA Spring Show and Conference are about complete and will be announced in the next newsletter. Some hints...we really liked the warmer version of spring this past year and anticipate the early part of May as our next gathering (how about the week after Mother's Day); the Sheraton Hotel and Conference facility in Colorado Springs appears to be the front runner again for price, quality and availability. There are still lots of options on the table for our program for next year but we all agreed that one strong focus will be on the necessity of the entire industry to address profitability. How to analyze and strategize your business certainly goes to the core of success and we feel that with our combined efforts as a group we will again offer you an enjoyable opportunity to participate in another low cost and high benefit experience that we believe is spelled RMFA. Any feedback will get you reserved seating and valet parking as always.

Please take the insert out of the newsletter regarding the upcoming journeyman spotting seminars in Lakewood and Salt Lake. This needs to be pinned up on the bulletin board with the sense of reality that it will be next year before these programs can be offered again. Again the cost vs. benefit analyzer should be hooting to announce that this program pays for everyone and because you've been once don't ignore what is obvious to teachers...nobody gets it all understood the first time...and the teacher is learning something every time he teaches...it makes you smart to do it more than once and here's your last chance this year. The Salt Lake program is scheduled for October 25 and the Lakewood is Nov. 15. Consider the insert pinned to the bulletin board and sign up now so you can sharpen your skills.

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LAUNDRY ROOM DESIGN & INSTALLATION

A Message from your President...

By: Richard Reese



There is an age-old saying that the three most important factors in business are location, location, and location. Does this hold true for our industry? Sure, location is a very important part of the overall business plan. However, is location what keeps our customers coming back? Are your customers quality oriented or price oriented? Most likely a little of both. Everyone wants a good product at a fair price.

Pricing may be influenced by location, quality, clientele and possibly by competition. Quality, on the other hand, is entirely up to us. The cleanliness of the garment, proper finishing, packaging, and customer service are all very important to overall quality. There are several key factors in determining the quality of work produced. All of these factors have one common denominator-Training. The cleaner must be familiar with the performance of the cleaning machine. The spotter will need to be armed with the latest tools and techniques to ensure proper stain removal. Finishers will need an understanding of fabric types and characteristics to apply the proper finishing techniques. The inspector, who is crucial to overall quality, should be well trained to oversee each garment before it is packaged. Customer service representatives should be trained to smile and greet each customer by name. All of these factors play an equally important role in determining the quality of work produced.

A properly trained staff is the first step in providing a quality service. The Rocky Mountain Fabricare Association provides excellent training tools to aid in the training of your staff. RMFA provides great educational opportunities through local spotting seminars and town

meetings. Whether you are an experienced spotter needing a refresher course or a beginning spotter, RMFA spotting seminars provide hands-on training using the latest tools and techniques. Town Meetings, which cover a wide variety of subjects, provide information that is vital in the day-to-day operations of your business. Watch your next RMFA newsletter for the next Town Meeting or spotting seminar nearest you.

So, is the age-old saying that location, location, and location are the three most important factors in business true? Maybe in a highly competitive and quality oriented industry such as ours the three most important factors should be education, education and education.

With all of the changes the dry-cleaning industry has seen in the last few years it is now more important than ever to keep up with the latest technologies and techniques. At RMFA our goal is to help you do just that. If we can be of any assistance or if you have an idea for a Town Meeting please don't hesitate to contact one of your local board members.

Richard Reese
RMFA President



continued from page 1...

documents and policies. These documents (and much more information) are available on this website. We also conduct many training courses around Colorado each year on hazardous waste regulatory requirements. As we implement GAP, we will undoubtedly find the need to develop additional guidance and training or update the guidance we have or the training we give. Significantly, this will depend in large measure on feedback from you and other GAP participants.

TO PROVIDE ADVICE TO YOU ON POLLUTION PREVENTION AND WASTE MINIMIZATION ALTERNATIVES THAT MAY SAVE YOU MONEY.

Working with you through our **on-site** GAP visit, we may be able to identify opportunities for more efficient production, opportunities for energy savings, or opportunities for you to incorporate more environmentally friendly raw materials. This, in turn, may save you money!

WHAT CAN I EXPECT DURING A GAP VISIT?

The on-site GAP visit will be as short and efficient as possible. Depending on the size and complexity of your facility, the visit may take between one and four hours. However, the more we see, the more help we can give you. Generally, we will want to walk through your facility with you, tour your production processes and waste generation areas, and view your hazardous waste management and storage.

At the conclusion of the visit, our staff will sit down with you and explain their findings - those things you are doing right and those things you need to do better. They will explain options you have for regaining complete compliance and work with you on a schedule for correcting any deficiencies. In addition, they will explain any waste minimization and pollution prevention opportunities that you may have, and point you in a direction to further exploit those opportunities.

Any compliance deficiencies noted during the GAP site visit **will not result in any enforcement action**. This is our effort to help you comply. The only exception is if your facility is currently causing imminent and substantial endangerment to public health or the environment through mismanagement of hazardous wastes.

GAP'S THREE PRIMARY OBJECTIVES ARE:

1. To provide assistance to you in understanding and implementing the hazardous waste regulations;
2. To develop tools that make hazardous waste compliance easier for you; and
3. To provide advice to you on pollution prevention and waste minimization alternatives that may save you money.

HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE?

Call Kathryn Stewart, our GAP coordinator, at 303-692-3300 (1-888-569-1831 toll-free) to schedule an on-site compliance assistance visit. After she speaks with you briefly about your operations, she will send you a packet of GAP information, including a brief questionnaire. Kathryn will also schedule the GAP site visit at your convenience.

Note: If you only have one or two questions and do not want or need an on-site visit, please call our Technical Assistance Line at 303-692-3320 (1-888-569-1831 ext. 3320) or send us an email at comments.hmwmd@state.co.us. Also, explore the other portions of this website.

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