

A weekly electronic news service on ozone protection & related issues compiled by:

UNEP DTIE OzonAction Programme

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1- The SunWise School Program: An EMPACT Project

Day after day, as school bells echo through the hallways, millions of kids across the nation stream out of their classrooms and into sun-filled school yards, playgrounds, and sports fields. While this is a familiar childhood scene, it also is one that, without proper precautions, could endanger the health of students. Too much exposure to the sun's ultraviolet (UV) radiation can be harmful to anyone's health -- particularly that of a child.

In the atmosphere, the ozone layer forms a shield that protects the Earth from the sun's powerful UV radiation. Scientists have discovered, however, that the ozone layer is thinning and allowing more UV rays to reach the Earth's surface. Combined with current sun exposure behaviors, the thinning of the ozone layer may increase the chance of overexposure for adults and children. Too much exposure to UV radiation can cause serious health problems such as skin cancer, cataracts, and immune system suppression.

To promote sun-safe behavior at an early age, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) developed the **SunWise School Program**, a national environmental and health education program for grades K-8. Through the use of classroom, school, and community components, SunWise promotes sun safety by teaching children and their caregivers how to protect themselves from overexposure to UV radiation. The time commitment necessary to take part in SunWise is minimal, while the potential payoff is enormous!

Explore our website to learn about <u>ozone depletion <ozonelayer.html></u>, the <u>health effects of UV radiation <uvandhealth.html></u> and easy <u>action steps <actionsteps.html></u> to avoid overexposure to the sun. Discover EPA's exciting <u>SunWise School Program <overview.html></u>, and if you decide to participate, register <join/index.html> to join us.

Written by: EPA's <u>Stratospheric Protection Division http://www.epa.gov/ozone/index.html Last Updated: 12 April 2000</u>

2- California Company's Clean Air Act Plea Includes \$1 Million Fine

Allied Refrigeration Inc., of Long Beach, Calif., pleaded guilty on May 24 to violating the Clean Air Act and to illegally smuggling ozone-depleting chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) into the United States. As part of the plea, Allied has agreed to pay a \$1 million fine, \$100,000 of which will be directed to the Santa Monica National Recreational

Area for use on environmental protection and preservation projects.

Allied participated in a scheme to smuggle 18,000 30-pound cylinders of CFCs into the United States between 1993 and 1995. The \$1 million fine represents the profits Allied made from reselling the smuggled CFCs. The principal smugglers in this scheme, Cowas Gustad Patel of San Dimas, Calif., and Bruce Burrell of Miami, Fla., have already been convicted and sentenced. The importation of CFCs into the United States is strictly regulated because the

release of these ozone-depleting substances into the atmosphere can increase human exposure

to ultraviolet radiation, which is a cause of skin cancer and cataracts. This case was investigated by EPA's riminal Investigation Division and the U.S. Customs Service, and was prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Central District of California in Los Angeles.

Source: US EPA, 1 June 2000 Contact: Rosseel.Kevin@epamail.epa.gov

3- MITI Releases Report on HFC, PFC Use

Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions related to hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) and perfluorocarbons (PFCs) have not yet decreased in some areas, said an advisory panel to the Japanese Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI).

The ministry said while overall emissions of HFCs and PFCs have decreased, the amount of gases used in producing liquid crystal displays (LCDs) and sprays to dust computers has increased. HFCs and PFCs were introduced to replace ozone-depleting chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs).

Industry officials recently met with MITI's Chemical Product Council to discuss voluntary reduction efforts for HFCs, PFCs, and sulfur hexafluoride (SF6). HFCs are used in dusting sprays, air conditioners and refrigerators, while PFCs are used to clean electronic parts and in the manufacture of semiconductors and LCDs. Insulators and substations utilize SF6.

MITI noted that emissions of HFC23, used in the manufacture of fluorocarbon polymers, have also increased. While most refrigerators and air conditioners produce no virtually no HFC emissions, HFC-containing sprays used to dust personal computers have doubled since 1995. Source: (KYODO: 23 May 2000) Quoted from Ozone Depletion Today, 30 May 2000.

4- Sticker Measures UV Accumulated Dose

A company at the Technion-Isreal Institute of Technology has developed a device called the Sticker in an effort to increase awareness of sun exposure. The Sticker is a quarter-sized patch that can be worn on either the skin or on clothing.

The Sticker changes color when the wearer has had too much sun. As air pollution has increased over the years, the Earth's protective ozone layer has thinned, causing increased over-exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun.

"The sun's ultraviolet radiation is the cause of premature aging, wrinkling, benign and precancerous growths and at least 90 percent of all skin cancers," said Skin Cancer Foundation founder and president Perry Robins.

"We welcome new developments such as the Sticker that could help alert people to the importance of protecting themselves from the damaging rays of the sun."

The device measures the total accumulated dosage of UV rays absorbed by the body, said Sticker developer Ori Faran. This device is intended to measure the accumulated dose, not just the intensity of the UV, which is what causes the damage.

The Sticker is available in two versions -- for use with or without sun screen. It is also available for six skin types from very light to very dark and is adjusted to the UV dose that causes burns for that type.

 $Source: (TECHNION-ISREAL\ RELEASE:\ 25/5/2000)\ Quoted\ from\ Ozone\ Depletion\ Today,\ 2\ June\ 2000$

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