

OZONENEWS

A weekly electronic news service on ozone protection & implementation of the Montreal Protocol compiled by:
UNEP DTIE OzonAction Programme, Paris

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Table of Contents:

- 1- Storms Lower Ozone Levels (UK)
 - 2- Irradiation to Preserve Spices, Products Quality (India)
 - 3- Science Holds its Nose and Investigates Rubbish (USA)
 - 4- A Growing Concern (USA)
-

1- Storms Lower Ozone Levels (UK)

Ozone miniholes over the North Atlantic follow the unsteady pulse of climate fluctuations.

Recurring fluctuations in the North Atlantic climate are punching miniholes in the ozone layer, exposing Scandinavia and northern Europe to higher levels of ultraviolet radiation than normal, say two climatologists. Seesawing air pressure over Greenland and the subtropical north Atlantic Ocean stirs the atmosphere and wafts ozone-depleted air towards populated high-latitude regions in the Northern Hemisphere... These temporary but substantial episodes of ozone depletion are called 'miniholes'. They are associated with greater levels of harmful ultraviolet rays at ground level - atmospheric ozone usually filters out this radiation from sunlight... Yvan Orsolini of the Norwegian Institute for Air Research in Kjeller and Varavut Limpasuvan of the Coastal Carolina University in Conway, South Carolina, say that a climate phenomenon called the North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO) dominates the mixing of air in the North Atlantic region... Ozone variability and miniholes tend to appear along storm tracks over the North Atlantic. Orsolini and Limpasuvan compared 20 years of satellite ozone measurements with measurements of the phase and strength of the NAO...

Full Text @: <http://www.nature.com/nsu/011101/011101-5.html>

Source: Nature, Science Update, 29 October 2001 By: Philip Ball

2- Irradiation to Preserve Spices, Products Quality (India)

Radiation processing is emerging as an acceptable and reliable technology for producing spices and spice products of global quality and safety standards. India and other developing countries have to switch over to viable processing processes by 2015 when methyl bromide, the widely used fumigant for insect disinfestation of whole spice or processed products, will be phased out completely. The developed countries will stop its use in 2005, under the Montreal Protocol, as it is an ozone depleting substance... It is also important as the spice trade is set to rise further with the worldwide interest in spicy ethnic foods, and growing demand for spice-based medicines and remedies. However, the major importing countries like the US, European Union, Japan and West Asia are attaching greatest importance to the quality and safety of the spices they buy. These countries are also demanding extremely low bacterial counts in spices and other ingredients that are added to manufactured foods...

Full Text @: <http://www.financialexpress.com/fe20011027/commo13.html>

Source: The Financial Express, The Indian Express Group, 27 October 2001

3- Science Holds its Nose and Investigates Rubbish (USA)

Each day, America plops 120 million tons of garbage into landfills, and not all of it stays put. Landfills emit potent greenhouse gases, like methane and carbon dioxide, that, according to new studies, carry far more noxious chemicals than previously thought... study looked at emissions of ozone-destroying chlorofluorocarbon-11, or CFC-11, used to make insulating foam for refrigerators. Peter Kjeldsen of the Technical University of Denmark discovered that such foam emits few CFCs as long as it remains in one piece. But after it is broken or shredded - as it typically is before disposal -- CFC-11 escapes much faster. "How much is this foam-released CFC-11 damaging the ozone layer?" asks Kjeldsen...

Full Text @: <http://www.popsci.com/science/01/10/12/dump/>

Source: Popular Science Today, 12 October 2001, By: Etienne Benson

4- A Growing Concern (USA)

... Florida's billion-dollar winter vegetable and strawberry industries head into the growing season with a shrinking supply of methyl bromide, which government regulators targeted for elimination a decade ago. Years of research were supposed to turn up a viable replacement to offset the impact of methyl bromide's phaseout, but scientists say that hasn't happened.

Florida fruit and vegetable growers believe they have only one option left: Convince the federal government to exempt them from the phaseout, pointing out that lower yields and higher costs of proposed alternatives will cause financial hardship... The EPA has been noncommittal about any changes. Under the Montreal Protocol, the agency is allowed to grant "critical use exemptions" for methyl bromide. Those regulations haven't been prepared, however, and they won't be for several years, Thomas said. A provision in the 2001 Farm Bill, which passed in the U.S. House of Representatives two weeks ago, gives authority to the secretary of agriculture to grant limited methyl bromide exemptions to farmers...

Full Text @: <http://www.tampatrib.com/MGAX4S6HDTC.html>

Source: The Tampa Tribune, 29 October 2001, By Andrew Meadows @: ameadows@tampatrib.com

OzoNews is available on the OzonAction Programme web site @:

<http://www.uneptie.org/ozonaction/compliance/ozonews/main.html>

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