



H₂O Line

Environmental Compliance Meeting

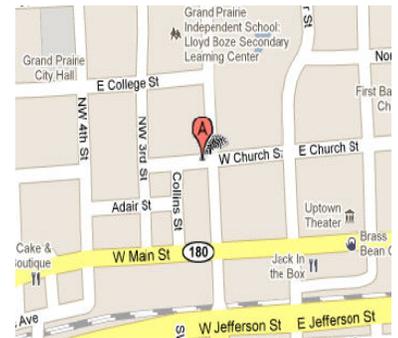
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Please join us on **Thursday, July 11, 2013** for the next Environmental Compliance meeting. The meeting will be held from 9:30 - 11:00 am at the Environmental Service Department office located in the Development Center at 206 W. Church Street. The Development Center is located across from City Hall at the intersection of Church and NW 2nd St. Take either of the outside staircases located on the east side of the building to the second floor. An elevator is also available.

gency Preparedness. Depending on your operations, you may be required to have certain emergency plans in place. Additionally, you should have an integrated plan addressing a wide range of events that could occur due to human activity, equipment failure, and natural disasters. Our speakers will be Mark Cline, EH&S Manager, and Wayne Carswell, Emergency Preparedness Subcommittee Chairman, with Pratt & Whitney. They will be sharing some of the strategies and resources they used to develop contingency plans for their facilities.

To register, or for more information, contact Cheri Hebison at (972) 237-8070 or chebison@gptx.org, or fax your registration form to (972) 237-8228.



This quarter's topic will be Emer-

[Did You Know?]

Recycling one ton of paper saves the equivalent of up to 17 trees, 7,000 gallons of water, and 3.3 cubic yards of landfill space.

Clean Air Action Challenge

During the week of June 17-21, we are challenging your company to make clean air choices. Companies will compete against each other to see who can make the most clean air choices during the Clean Air Action Challenge. The City of Grand Prairie will recognize a first, second, and third place win-

SAVE THE DATE
CLEAN AIR ACTION DAY
6.21.13

ner that make the most clean air decisions. These companies will receive awards for their accomplishments.

Each participating company's employees will take the Clean Air Action Day pledge by logging in their commitments at www.airnorthtexas.org/

cleanair.asp and take pictures or videos of how your company is making clean air choices. Submit pictures and videos to cleanair@gptx.org by 3:00 p.m. Monday, June 24. Make sure to include your company name in your entries.

We're online!!!

www.gptx.org/

[EnvironmentalQuality](http://www.gptx.org/EnvironmentalQuality)



Creating raving fans by delivering world class service.

Wal-Mart to Pay Over \$81 Million in Fines to EPA

On May 29, 2013, the EPA Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance reported that Wal-Mart has plead guilty to federal environmental crimes and civil violations and will pay more than \$81 million in fines. Accord-

ing to the news release, Wal-Mart admits violating criminal and civil laws designed to protect water quality and to ensure proper handling of hazardous wastes and pesticides. EPA reports that there were six counts of violating the Clean Water Act by illegally handling and disposing of haz-

ardous materials at its retail stores across the United States and to violating the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) by failing to properly handle pesticides that had been returned by customers at its stores across the country.

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Explosion in West

The West Fertilizer Company was founded in 1962 in West, Texas, about 70 miles south of Dallas.



This was prior to state and federal requirements to obtain authorization for the emission of air contaminants. The industry was ‘grandfathered’ until September 2004, when grandfathered facilities were also required to obtain proper authorization.

On April 17, 2013 a deadly explosion occurred at the West facility. It happened about 20

minutes after the first report of a fire. At least 15 people lost their lives and more than 160 people were

injured. The explosion leveled the plant and damaged and destroyed more than 150 buildings. It registered on seismographs as a magnitude-2.1 earthquake and could be felt 50 miles away.

Investigators have confirmed that ammonium nitrate was the trigger for the explosion, but the cause of the initial fire is as yet unknown. The 28-34 tons

of ammonium nitrate that exploded in the facility was the equivalent of 20,000 pounds of dynamite. In 1995, Timothy McVeigh used about two tons of ammonium nitrate to blow up the federal building in Oklahoma City, killing 168 people. As recently as 2012, the West Fertilizer plant held some 270 tons of that substance, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services. The plant was storing 1,350 times the amount of ammonium nitrate that would normally trigger safety oversight by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). However some reports suggest that DHS did not even know of the company’s existence until the day of the explosion.

The company had been cited by federal regulators, twice since 2006. In 2006, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) had cited the company for failure to file a risk management program on time. In 2012, the Transportation Department’s Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration fined them for storing anhydrous ammonia in tanks that lacked proper warning labels. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) had also inspected the plant in 2006 in response to citizens’ complaints about unpleasant odors and had issued a notice of violation to the company.

Stormwater BMPs for Your Facility

Stormwater runoff from your facility can be contaminated with toxic hydrocarbons in solvents, fertilizers and pesticides, suspended solids, heavy metals, abnormal pH, and oils and greases. Follow these Best Management Practices (BMPs) to prevent or reduce the discharge of these pollutants to stormwater:



Maintain good housekeeping measures.

- Collect trash from parking lots, lawns, fences, and other areas around your

facility daily

- Only wash vehicles in an approved wash bay
- Immediately clean up spills with absorbent
 - All dumpsters and trash receptacles need to be free of leaks and closed
 - Ensure dumpsters, storage areas, and loading and unloading docks are clean and clear of pollutants and debris
- Store possible pollutants out of the weather
- Never blow grass clippings or leaves into the

storm drain

- Use a broom and dustpan instead of hosing down paved areas
- Dispose of shop towels properly. Never allow towels to enter the sanitary sewer or storm drain.

Know your spill prevention and response procedures.

- Store liquid storage tanks and containers within secondary containment structures
- Maintain overfill prevention devices on tanks and pumps
- Keep containers closed unless in use

- Ensure spill clean-up materials are easily accessible
- Protect your storm drains
- Never hose down the spill; instead use dry clean-up methods

Train all employees annually on the following:

- Good housekeeping procedures
- Spill prevention and response methods
- When and how to report spills
- Materials management

2013 Drought

North Texas has since recovered from the historical drought of 2011. However, some parts of Texas are experiencing the third straight year of extreme drought. 2013 has seen the nation sharply divided between dry and wet as summer approaches with the east almost entirely drought-free while the west of the Mississippi River persists in intensifying drought. 66% of the Western U.S. is in a drought, with the worst conditions in Texas, Colorado, Kansas, and New Mexico. Nationally, 47% of the continuous U.S. is in a drought. North Texas is currently in moderate drought conditions. The 2013 Texas drought season is off to a worse start than 2012 or 2011 with outlook for rainfall and temperature being bleak, a trend that NOAA says is a good

indicator the region has slipped into a pattern of severe drought last seen in the 1930s Dust Bowl and the widespread 1950s drought. 2011 was second worst Texas drought on record. 2012 marked the most severe and extensive drought nationally in at least 25 years.

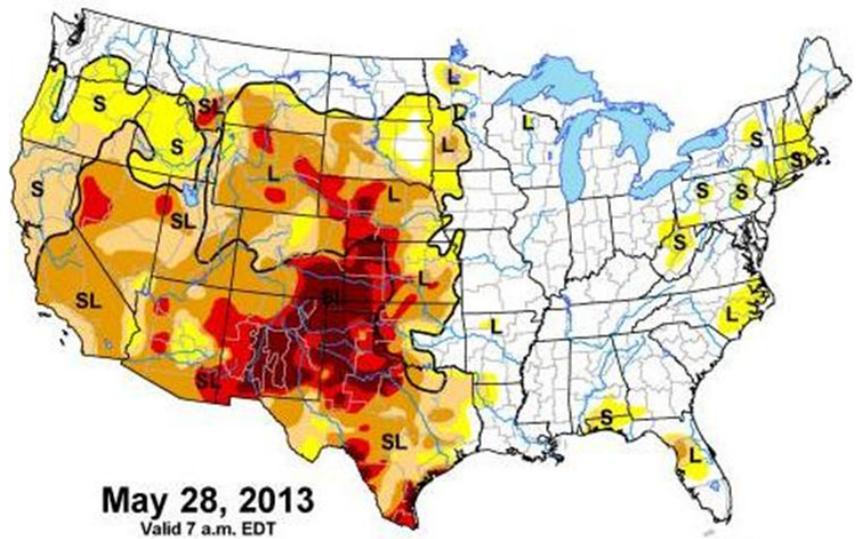
Grand Prairie residents and businesses are required to follow mandatory water restrictions until further notice:

- No watering on Wednesday, Saturday or Sunday
- Even num-

bered addresses water lawns on Mondays and Thursdays

- Odd numbered addresses water lawns on Tuesdays and Fridays
- No watering between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.

- Handheld water hoses and soaker hoses may be used at anytime
- Residents may not wash vehicles at home during restrictions, nor may they use the water hose to wash off sidewalks and driveways



EPA has New Objection to Keystone Pipeline

The Environmental Protection Agency has officially questioned aspects of the State Department's draft environmental review of the Keystone XL pipeline proposal.

The State Department is the agency in charge of deciding whether the administration should give a presidential permit to TransCanada to build a pipeline to transport heavy crude oil from Canada to Texas. But other agencies can weigh in on the project and force President Obama to make the final determination.

At the end of February, the

State Department released a draft environmental impact assessment of the project, suggesting that the project would have little impact

on climate change because the oil it was shipping would be extracted anyway even if the pipeline wasn't built. But the EPA suggested the draft assessment may have underestimated the climate impact of the pipeline, which could transport as much as 830,000 barrels of crude to refineries in Texas. EPA suggested the total amount of greenhouse gas



emissions linked to the project could be higher than the State Department estimated, because the State Department assumes the crude oil would be extracted and shipped by rail if the pipeline is not constructed.

Keystone opponents have argued that trains can carry nowhere near the amount of oil that a pipeline could, therefore blocking the pipeline would create a transportation bottleneck and slow down development of the oil sands.

EPA's objection to the State Department's draft analysis not only provides opponents with political ammunition, it could force President Obama to directly weigh in on the permitting decision if they raise similar objections later when the State Department conducts a national interest determination. As long as no other agency objects, the State Department can issue a ruling on the pipeline on its own; if EPA challenges the national interest determination the State Department makes at the end of its review process, Obama would have to issue the final permit decision.

City of Grand Prairie

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This newsletter is a publication of:
Environmental Services Department,
Environmental Quality Division
Submit your comments/suggestions to:
Editor: Cindy Mendez
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Wal-Mart Fines

(Continued from page 1)

According to documents filed in U.S. District Court in San Francisco, from a date unknown until January 2006, Wal-Mart did not have a program in place and failed to train its employees on proper hazardous waste management and disposal practices at the store level. As a result, hazardous wastes were either discarded improperly at the store level – including being put into municipal trash bins or, if a liquid, poured into the local sewer system – or they were improperly transported without proper safety documentation to one of six product return centers located throughout the United States.



Registration Form

Environmental Compliance Meeting
Environmental Services Department
City of Grand Prairie Development Center

206 W. Church, 2nd Floor

Emergency Preparedness

July 11, 2013

9:30 to 11:00 a.m.

(Continental Breakfast Provided)

Company Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Attendees: _____

PLEASE RETURN BY MAIL OR FAX TO:

Environmental Services Department

P.O. Box 534045

Grand Prairie, TX 75053-4045

Fax to: 972.237.8228

Email: chebison@gptx.org

Green Chemistry

Green Chemistry, also known as sustainable chemistry, is the design of chemical products and processes that reduce or eliminate the use of hazardous substances and generation of hazardous waste. It applies across its life cycle, including design, manufacture and use. Some of the benefits of Green Chemistry technologies are:

- Reduced waste, reduction in waste treatments prior to disposal
- Safer products
- Reduced use of energy and resources
- Improved competitiveness among chemical manufacturers.

Grand Prairie Industries are encouraged to study their processes and become not only 'Greener' in their use of hazardous substances but also reduce their costs as some of our past winners of our Environmental Compliance Awards have demonstrated. EPA is actively promoting this program with Education, Tools, Case studies, Grants and Awards.

For more information: www.epa.gov/greenchemistry/