

# NASA-LaRC SAFETY NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE OFFICE OF SAFETY AND FACILITY ASSURANCE, SEMA

November 1994

## Responsible Winter Storage of Pesticides and Fertilizers

Fall is the time to prepare a safe holding area for unused pesticides and fertilizers. Proper storage preserves the environment, protects human health, and maintains chemical efficiency. A winter storage facility should:

- \* be secure
- \* be well-ventilated
- \* be well-lit when in use
- \* allow materials to remain "high and dry"
- \* be protected from extreme hot and cold
- \* be spacious enough to allow for separation of herbicides, fungicides, insecticides, and fertilizers
- \* be enclosed in such a manner that leaks or spills may be contained and cleaned without compromising the soil and water quality in the vicinity

The storage area must be secure from unwanted visitors, people and animals! Good lighting and ventilation are important to the personal health of the user(s) of the facility and can prevent volatile chemicals from contaminating other materials in storage. Flammable liquids must be stored outside living areas and away from ignition sources. Avoid dampness as it reduces the shelf life of many chemicals and causes metal and paper containers to degrade. Temperature extremes also affect product shelf life. Heat, increases the volatility of stored chemicals while freezing causes some containers to rupture. If specific temperature ranges are required for proper storage, they will be found on the product label. Finally, the site must allow for containment of spills or leaks. Clean-up materials (absorbents, water, etc.) should be near at hand.

Chemical containers must be in good condition. Always keep pesticides and fertilizers in their original containers with a legible product label attached. Never transfer excess pesticide or fertilizers to an empty food container. Do not store pesticides with or near food, medicine, or cleaning supplies. An updated storage inventory allows for keeping track of

what has been placed in storage and also helps in planning purchases next season. Useful records may include product name, active ingredient, date of purchase, and date and volume stored.

One way to minimize storage problems is to plan ahead, and buy chemicals one season at a time. The small-volume containers that seemed expensive in the spring may be the "best buy" in the long run.

*Virginia Tech, "Extension Answers", Nov. 1994*

## Certification of Operators and Riggers to Perform Lifting Operations

Facility Safety Heads (FSH) and Facility Coordinators (FC) are reminded that all personnel involved in lifting and rigging are required to be trained, tested and certified to perform lifting operations. The Office of Safety and Facility Assurance is now in the process of organizing classes for certification of such operators. FSHs and FCs should review their work area for proper certification. If further assistance is needed for this program, contact Gary Carl at extension 43377.

## Coming Soon ! Safety TV Channel 11

The Office of Safety, Environment and Mission Assurance will soon have a dedicated TV Channel on the LaRC Television Network. The Office at this time has plans for scheduled safety films to assist facilities in having safety meetings. If you have suggestions for the new service, please send them to Gary Carl at Mail Stop 429. Look for more information in the December issue !