

USCG Integrated Support Command Seattle, WA Hazardous Waste Reduction

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ISC Seattle continues to see a downward trend in our waste disposal, reaffirming our source reduction programs are working. ISC has dropped its production of recurring hazardous wastes to 15,178 pounds for the reporting year 2005. This represents an overall 50% reduction in hazardous waste generated in the last 5 years. In 2001, ISC Seattle generated 30,899 pounds of hazardous waste.

In 2003, the units located at ISC Seattle generated approximately 16000 pounds of oily rags that were sent off to the landfill as non-regulated waste. This equates to approximately \$44000 in disposal costs. In April 2004, ISC Seattle implemented the Shop Towel Program. The Shop Towel program services are a very successful, cost effective method of reducing one of the Coast Guard's larger waste streams, oil and paint rags.

Currently, the shore units are saving operating funds by paying for shop towels instead of buying baled rags and paper wipers. Shop towels, towel for towel, cost less than half the price of baled rags, absorbency rates are equal or better, and disposal fees are eliminated.

The vendor supplies red vendor owned towels, at a cost of 7 cents each. These towels are used for wiping oil, grease, solvents or paints. Practically anything can be absorbed with the exception of corrosive and acid materials. The vendor delivers clean towels and pick up the soiled towels from our facility on a weekly basis.

Units that generate rag waste are encouraged to utilize this service to reduce unnecessary waste. The reduction of approximately, 3,000 pounds of oily rags which equates to \$8000 in disposal costs has already been achieved for 2004. The total cost to the Coast Guard was \$657. This is all due to the implementation of this program and the cooperation of the shore units at ISC Seattle.

During fiscal year 2005, the total amount of disposal cost avoidance for ISC Seattle totaled approximately \$41000 up from the \$26000 that was reported in FY04. This figure attributed to the reutilization efforts of hazardous materials no longer needed and deemed excess within the units serviced by the ISC Seattle. This material was reissued out to customers at no charge, thus eliminating the need of disposing it unnecessarily.

This accumulated reduction is due in part to the implementation of the Hazardous Minimazation Center (HAZMIN Center). The HAZMIN Center purchases, inventories, manages, and disposes of all hazardous substances that are purchased for ISC Seattle and Tenant commands. The HAZMIN Center continues to save time and money for all units stationed at ISC Seattle.