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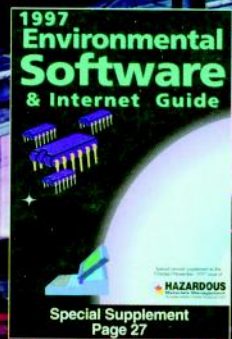
## Materials Management

The Canadian Publication of Pollution Prevention and Control<sup>™</sup>

Oct./Nov. 1997

# Kempt Road

## Canada's First Large-Scale PCB Property Cleanup



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**Hamilton Plastics Fire**  
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\$10<sup>00</sup> CDN.

## Firefighting foam demonstration

For the first time in Canada, Pyrocool Fire Extinguishing Foam extinguished two pressurized, three-dimensional fuel fires in tandem to demonstrate the effectiveness of this phenomenal new extinguishing agent. Held at Mirabel International Airport's fire training



Top: On the scene, from left to right, **Howard Sher** of Nochar Canada, **Todd Latham** of HMM, and **Robert Tinsley** of Pyrocool Technology Inc. Bottom: Firefighters apply Pyrocool foam, extinguishing the fire in an incredible 1.5 minutes

aircraft simulator in Montreal, Quebec, members of the industrial, municipal, military, and marine fire sectors saw the simulated jet engine and fuel line ruptures extinguished in one and a half minutes using only 5.3 gallons of Pyrocool and 1,324 gallons of water. This particular prop had never been extinguished before.

Now available in Canada, Pyrocool rapidly reduces fire-site temperatures, as opposed to simply depriving a fire of oxygen, as is the case with aqueous film forming foams. According to Howard Sher, president of Nochar Canada and exclusive Canadian distributor of Pyrocool products, this next generation of fire extinguishing agent is capable of fighting difficult fires such as pressurized and three-dimensional fires where conventional foams are less effective. Pyrocool products eliminate the heat component of fire through a petrochemical process. Wherever the product strikes, fire-site temperatures are reduced, thereby removing the risk of rekindling. Also, the products are completely biodegradable. ♦ – Todd Latham

October/November 1997

## On-Site/A La Source

Meeting industry needs

by Anne Makhoul

Recently, the environmental manager at Kraft Canada needed an assistant who would help ensure that the company's Niagara Falls facility was in compliance with all provincial environmental regulations and company protocols. The requirements set out for the position specified that in addition to a thorough knowledge of regulations, applicants needed to be familiar with spill containment plans and hazardous waste management. Thanks to On-Site/A La Source, finding the right person didn't involve any needles or haystacks.

Since 1983, On-Site (a non-profit organization) has matched employers with graduates of science, engineering, and business programs for placements up to six months, salary-free. Over 2,000 public- and private-sector enterprises have used the services of some 4,000 On-Site workers to address projects they haven't had the time or in-house expertise to deal with. Worker salaries are paid by the Job Creations Partnerships program of Human Resources Development Canada, and On-Site is sponsored by the Alliance of Manufacturers & Exporters Canada. Day-to-day operations are managed by Energy Pathways Inc., a management services company.

Kraft supervisor Ted Schultz chose Doug Pratt from a number of qualified candidates. Pratt had recently completed an environmental assessment and management diploma which, in addition to his Bachelor's degree in biology and environmental studies, made him ideally suited for the job.

Since the start of his placement in February of this year, Pratt has taken on a number of tasks related to hazardous waste management. He re-arranged the hazardous materials room to make it safer and more efficient, undertook a feasibility study to recycle fluorescent tubes, and conducted a waste audit which targeted a number of areas where waste reduction figures could be improved. He also assisted staff with the final preparation and disbursement of spills kits.

Schultz appreciates what On-Site has done for the company. "Doug is exactly the right person for our needs. He understands our proactive approach to environmental compliance, and he has already made significant contributions of his own. We are pleased with the quality of service the program has offered us."

Plant Engineer Ladi Dhami at Kaiser Aluminum in London, Ontario, selected Jim Jacob, a chemical engineer, to assist with hazardous materials management tasks. An internal environmental audit had pinpointed a number of tasks that Jacob is now addressing. Ladi appreciates the close working relationship afforded by having someone onsite.

"We needed somebody with an extensive background in environmental issues to give us some assistance. Though it's too early to say if we'll be able to keep Jim on, we knew that the arrangement with On-Site would be far better than using outside consultants to do the work. Jim is here with us every day, asking questions and getting them answered on the spot. It's been a collaborative effort from the start, and we're very pleased with the results so far."

Not all On-Site workers carry out environmental or hazardous waste management tasks. The program provides a great deal of flexibility, and can address specific needs in other areas. These include export development, energy management, quality management (ISO 9000), "green" purchasing, occupational health and safety, and the use of new computer technologies.

Once an On-Site placement is over, companies are free to hire their program worker, but there is no pressure to do so. That said, the success of the program can partly be judged by the fact that a third of employers end up offering full-time employment to their On-Site worker at the end of the placement. Another 40 per cent of program graduates secure full-time employment in their field as a direct result of the real-life experience they gain.

On-Site has had a long association with the hazardous materials management sector. Senior staff of Tricil Limited were early promoters of the program concept, and Bob Redhead, now a senior executive with Laidlaw Inc., continues to praise the programs accomplishments in the area of job creation. "Our affiliation with On-Site allowed us the opportunity to use the services of a dynamic group of qualified people. We were pleased to act as a program sponsor in the early days of On-Site's development. Its continued success proves that industry and government can build on one another's strengths to deliver quality programs." ♦

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