

OZONews

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UNEP DTIE OzonAction Programme, Paris

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1- Isobutane Explosion in a Factory, Treviso, Italy

(NOTE from the OzonAction Programme: The following is an unofficial English translation of the original Italian article available @: <http://www.cnnitalia.it/2001/ITALIA/11/12/isobutano/>

... an explosion at ELECTROLUX Zanussi in Susegana near Treviso, Italy caused by gases used for the production of refrigerators... The whole factory with approximately 2000 employees was evacuated... the cause was that the hall was full of Isobutane gas, which is considered as the most environmental friendly refrigerant, nevertheless it is highly inflammable... In the hall normally compressors for refrigerators are welded... the Isobutane (which is a smell & colorless gas, that however leaves humidity traces) with which the surrounding field was saturated... First investigations established, that the gas which is heavier than air, had filled up the hall up to a height of 1 meter. When one of the employee switched on its cutting torch, everything exploded...

Source: CNN Italia, 12 November 2001

2- New 'David Ball Award' Will Honour Contributions to Environmental Awareness in Fire Protection

Kidde plc, in association with the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proud to announce the creation of the annual 'David Ball Award for Fire and the Environment'. The first award will be presented at the Fourth Earth Technologies Forum in Washington DC in March 2002. Kidde plc. has issued a call for nominations for the first award with a closing date of 31 December 2001. The David Ball Award will recognise the significant contribution made by an individual, team or organisation to furthering the understanding of the impact of fire or developing improved methods of fire control that benefit or protect the environment. This can include areas such as risk reduction strategies or best practice in fighting fires or the methods used to detect and extinguish them. David Ball was Research Manager with Kidde and was well known in the fire protection industry as a passionate advocate of environmental awareness. At the last Earth Technologies Forum (November 2000) he was one of just thirty-two individuals and organisations from around the world to receive the Environmental Protection Agency's 'Stratospheric Ozone Award'.

Further information on the award, including the rules and nomination form can be found @:

www.kidde.com/thedavidballaward.html

3- Fill Your Lungs With the World's Cleanest Air

Cape Grim in northwest Tasmania has the purest air in the world. This mass of land is one of a series of air pollution monitoring stations, and is consistently measured as having the cleanest air which has traveled thousands of kilometers across the Southern Ocean from South America. Cape Grim has been the joint responsibility of the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) and the CSIRO (Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation) Division of Atmospheric Research, since the first sampling began in April 1976. The more than three billion measurements taken include greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide, as well as chemicals that deplete the ozone layer. A 10 percent increase in carbon dioxide has been recorded over the life of the station. In addition, long-term records of aerosol, radon and solar radiation have been obtained. These particles are measured in 'baseline' air that has come from over the sea. It must have particle concentrations of less than 600 per cubic centimetre. Higher concentrations usually indicate that the air has recently passed over land. Cape Grim was named by George Bass and Matthew Flinders in 1798 during their circumnavigation of Van Diemen's Land (renamed Tasmania at the conclusion of convict transportation).

Article @: http://www.travel-asia.com/newsdetail.asp?id=54&news_type=news

Source: Travel Asia Magazine, 26 November 2001

OzoNews is available on the OzonAction Programme web site @:

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

United Nations Environment Programme Division of Technology, Industry, and Economics (UNEP DTIE) OzonAction Programme provides OzoNews as a free service to help keep readers informed about current news relating to ozone depletion and the implementation of the Montreal Protocol. The goal of OzoNews is to provide information, stimulate discussion and promote cooperation in support of compliance with the Montreal Protocol. With the exception of items written by UNEP and occasional contributions solicited from other organizations, the news is sourced from on-line newspapers, journals and websites. The views expressed in articles written by external authors are solely the viewpoints of those authors and do not represent the policy or viewpoint of UNEP. While UNEP strives to avoid inclusion of misleading or inaccurate information, it is ultimately the responsibility of the reader to evaluate the accuracy of any news article in OzoNews. The citing of commercial technologies, products or services does not constitute endorsement of those items by UNEP.

If you have questions, comments, ideas for future articles, or you want to discontinue receiving this update,

please contact: Mrs. Samira de Gobert, Tel. (+33) 1 44371452 Email: samira.degobert@unep.fr

Directed by: Rajendra Shende, *Chief of Energy and OzonAction Programme*

Prepared by: Samira de Gobert, *Research Assistant*

Reviewer: Jim Curlin, *Information Officer*