

# OZONews

A weekly electronic news service on ozone protection & implementation of the Montreal Protocol compiled by:  
UNEP DTIE OzonAction Programme, Paris  
14 January 2002

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**Special Notice/ Employment Opportunity: UNEP Recruiting a key post of Network Manager**

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## 1- Smugglers of CFC Given Suspended Sentences (Japan)

KITAKYUSHU (Kyodo) Four men convicted of smuggling a large volume of a restricted ozone-depleting substance into Japan were given suspended prison terms by a district court Thursday. The Kokura branch of the Fukuoka District Court sentenced Yuichiro Nakazono, 33; Kenji Araki, 41; and Masashi Miyachi, 28, to two-year prison terms, suspended for four years, and ordered each of them to pay a 1 million yen penalty. Saburo Yamashita, a 60-year-old import agent from Okayama Prefecture, was sentenced to 18 months in prison, suspended for four years, and was ordered to pay a penalty of 800,000 yen. The four were found guilty of attempting to import chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) 12 from China without authorization, thereby violating the Customs Law. Judge Masaki Kawano said, "It was a selfishly motivated organized crime of malicious intent committed by those who are aware importation (of CFC) is effectively banned because it is environmentally destructive." The judge noted that the accused had expressed remorse over their actions. According to the ruling, the four attempted to import around 36,000 refill cans of CFC 12 from China in June by falsely declaring the cans contained CFC substitutes. The four are also believed to have imported a large number of cans in a similar fashion on nine occasions between August 2000 and May, selling them for about three times their normal value. As the agent is rare and its domestic production banned, it usually fetches high prices. CFC, an industrial chemical used in refrigeration systems, air conditioners, solvents and other products, damages the ozone layer. Both the production and import of CFCs have been banned in Japan since late 1995, but authorities say the products are smuggled in from developing countries where CFC production is still permitted.

**Full Text @:** <http://www.japantimes.co.jp/cgi-bin/getarticle.pl5?nn20020111a6.htm>

**Source:** The Japan Times, 11 January. 2002

## 2- Exploding Star May Have Zapped Ozone Layer: Theory

An exploding star may have destroyed part of Earth's protective ozone layer 2 million years ago, devastating some forms of ancient marine life, according to a new theory presented at this week's meeting of the American Astronomical Society. The new theory brings together puzzling clues from several different fields of research, including paleontology, geology and astronomy... cosmic ray emissions from a supernova could have had a potentially devastating effect on the Earth's ozone layer... more evidence will be needed to firmly establish the theory. In particular, more detailed searches for supernova-produced isotopes in the geological record would show whether there was a tight temporal correspondence between the supernova explosion and the extinction event. Isotope searches could also offer crucial information about the physical processes involved in supernova explosions... While the new theory may further heighten concern about human impacts on the ozone layer today... This research was funded by an Advanced Camera for Surveys grant from NASA, the Johns Hopkins Center for Astrophysical Sciences, and a grant from the Space Telescope Science Institute.

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**Full Text @:** <http://unisci.com/stories/20021/0109022.htm>

**Source:** UniScience 09 January 2002

## 3- New AHAM Research Finds Global Warming Models Greatly Overestimate Release of Fluorocarbons from Refrigerators to Atmosphere (USA)

**WASHINGTON, DC** -- AHAM's Appliance Research Consortium (ARC), in conjunction with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), recently sponsored research to Determine the Fraction of Blowing Agent Released from Refrigerator Polyurethane Foam After the Product is Decommissioned. The results of the research showed that the percentage of blowing agent released is highly dependent on the size of shredded particles. For a typical size distribution of particles from a shredder in Denmark, it was determined that, in total, less than 40% of the blowing agent is released upon shredding and during the first 6 weeks after it has been shredded. This is an important find because it has been assumed in global warming computer models that 100% of the blowing agent from polyurethane foam is released to the atmosphere when the appliance is decommissioned. Based on these results and further analyses of decommissioning practices in the U.S., AHAM will work with EPA to adjust the assumptions used in EPA's global warming models. The work was conducted by Peter Kjeldsen and Charlotte Scheutz, Environment & Resources, at Denmark Technical University (DTU) in Copenhagen using foam samples comprised of different blowing agents, including CFC-11, HCFC-141b, HFC-134a, and HFC-245fa. Experiments were performed to determine the percent of blowing agent released instantaneously upon shredding, and samples were monitored for 6 weeks to determine the amount released after shredding.

The final report from this project will be published in January ... Further research will be conducted, in February 2002, to determine what happens to the blowing agent that remains in the foam after it is buried in a landfill...

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**Source:** AHAM Press Release, 08 January 2002

#### **4- Time to Fire the Old Extinguisher (New Zealand)**

Bring out your yellow fire extinguishers - the Environment Ministry wants to destroy them safely because of their threat to the ozone layer. Many of the extinguishers are thought to be owned privately and are possibly unsafe, because they are likely to be corroded inside. But they cannot be legally serviced or re-charged. The extinguishers contain a firefighting gas, halon 1211 or bronchochlorofluoromethane (BCF), which reacts chemically with the ozone layer. Halon 1211 is more destructive than other chlorofluorocarbons: one yellow 1.4kg extinguisher contains enough gas to destroy 27 tonnes of atmospheric ozone over 17 years. There are thought to be up to 110,000kg of halon 1211 left in hand extinguishers in New Zealand. Most of them are more than 12 years old, and they have been barred from servicing or refilling, says John Fraser, chief executive of Auckland non-profit company Halon Recycling ... he says the Government is helping to pay for the destruction of the gas in hand extinguishers. It normally costs \$20 a kilogram to ship the gas to Australia for incineration. The Government will pay \$5 a kilogram towards that. Many fire protection companies are offering discounts on dry powder or other replacement extinguishers, which will offset the recycling cost.

... New Zealand is a signatory to the Montreal Protocol which commits countries to eliminate the use of ozone-depleting substances. The Protocol requires them to be destroyed by this year. Mr Fraser says safety considerations mean householders should replace the yellow extinguishers anyway...

**Full Text @:**

<http://www.nzherald.co.nz/storydisplay.cfm?storyID=585563&thesection=news&thesubsection=general&reportID=57030>

**Source:** The New Zealand Herald, 08 January 2002

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#### **Special Notice/ Employment Opportunity: UNEP Recruiting a key post of Network Manager**

The OzonAction Programme of UNEP's Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (DTIE) assists more than 110 developing countries with compliance with the Montreal Protocol on the Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. It recently re-oriented its programme strategy and delivery to help build stronger developing country ownership of the compliance process. The programme is now recruiting 8 professionals to join its re-organized team located in UNEP's regional offices in Bangkok, Mexico City, Bahrain and Nairobi, and in Paris. The team will form a center of excellence for providing policy and other implementation advice to developing countries to help ensure real and sustained compliance with this Multilateral Environmental Agreement. To coordinate the overall implementation and the delivery of the programme through regional offices, UNEP invites qualified candidates to submit applications for the post of Senior Environmental Affairs Officer (Network Manager). Based in Paris, France, the Network Manager will be responsible for supervising, coordinating and supporting the operation of the Regional Networks of Ozone Officers and supervising a team of professionals located in various UNEP Regional Offices. This position is central to the UNEP's OzonAction Programme that will be responsible for the policy advice to the governments for the implementation of the Montreal Protocol. The post is funded as part of UNEP's work programme under the Multilateral Fund of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. The closing date for application is 12 February 2002. For a complete description of the position and application details, please visit

OzonAction Programme web site @: <http://www.uneptie.org/ozonaction/aboutus/vacancy.htm> Details for the other vacancies mentioned above will be posted shortly on the same web site.

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**OzoNews is available on the OzonAction Programme web site @:**

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

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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.

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