

OZONews

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1- Antarctic Ozone Hole Smaller this Year

Scientists from NASA and the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) have confirmed the ozone hole over the Antarctic this September is not only much smaller than it was in 2000 and 2001, but has split into two separate "holes." The researchers stressed the smaller hole is due to this year's peculiar stratospheric weather patterns and that a single year's unusual pattern does not make a long-term trend. Moreover, they said, the data are not conclusive that the ozone layer is recovering ... "While chlorine and bromine chemicals cause the ozone hole, temperature is also a key factor in ozone loss," Newman said. The Montreal Protocol and its amendments banned chlorine-containing chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and bromine-containing halons in 1995, because of their destructive effect on the ozone layer. However, CFCs and halons are extremely long-lived and still linger at high concentrations in the atmosphere. The coldest temperatures over the South Pole typically occur in August and September. Thin clouds form in these cold conditions, and chemical reactions on the cloud particles help chlorine and bromine gases to rapidly destroy ozone. By early October, temperatures usually begin to warm, and thereafter the ozone layer starts to recover ...

Full Text @: <http://www.earthobservatory.nasa.gov/Newsroom/NasaNews/2002/2002093010833.html>

Source: Nasa News, Earth Observatory, 30 September 2002

2- Winters, Volcanic Eruptions May Zap Arctic Ozone

Researchers now say a seasonal "ozone hole" could likely form over the North Pole within 30 years. The hole could allow harmful rays from the sun to hit the more-populated Arctic regions. "If a period of high volcanic activity coincides with a series of cold Arctic winters, then a springtime Arctic ozone hole may reappear for a number of consecutive years, resembling the pattern seen in the Antarctic every spring since the 1980s," Azadeh Tabazadeh, lead author of a paper on the possible ozone hole and a scientist at NASA Ames Research Center. Though ozone holes appear each year over the South Pole, an excess of ozone and a lack of truly cold winters needed to form ozone-damaging polar clouds have kept ozone loss over northern Polar regions in check.

Article @:

http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&u=/wcom/20021001/we_wcom/winters_volcanic_eruptions_may_zap_arctic_ozone

Source: Yahoo News, 1 October 2002, By: Lucas J. Mire, weather.com

3- Illegal Import of ODS Still Rampant (Indonesia)

The Indonesian government is considering delaying a ban on the use of ozone-depleting substances (ODS), mainly CFCs, by industries until 2007, due to the fact that its import remains rampant, a senior government official has said. Deputy State Minister for Environment for Environmental Conservation Liana Bratasida said the use of ODS was worrying as it remained above 5,000 metric tons as of 2001, although there had been a declining trend in volume since 1998. The government has set a target of reducing the use of ODS to only 700 metric tons of CFCs by the end of 2003 ... Indonesia does not produce ODS, but uses it in several products ... said the government should continue its technical program for companies to help them make the change to non-ODS technology. The Deputy State Minister added that funding from the Multilateral fund through the United Nations and the World Bank would

reimburse a company's shift from ODS to non-ODS technology, and could be an effective tool for eliminating the industries' use of ODS.

Article @: <http://www.thejakartapost.com/detailnational.asp?fileid=20021007.C04&irec=3>

Source: The Jakarta Post, Jakarta, 7 October 2002, By: Moch. N. Kurniawan

4- Automobile CFC Law Takes Effect (Japan)

The recovery and destruction of chlorofluorocarbons from car air conditioners became compulsory Tuesday under a new CFC recovery and destruction law. A car owner must buy a 2,580 yen "CFC coupon" when disposing of a vehicle and taking it to either a car dealer or auto shop to pump out the CFCs, which scientists blame for depleting the Earth's ozone layer. The Japan Automobile Recycling Promotion Center, which issues the CFC coupons, will use the revenue to pay for recovering and destroying CFCs through government-licensed operators.

Article @: <http://www.japantimes.co.jp/cgi-bin/getarticle.pl5?nn20021002b1.htm>

Source: The Japan Times: 2 October 2002

5- Revamp for Fire Fight System (UK)

North Warwickshire Borough Councillors are being asked to spend nearly £100,000 to refurbish a room housing the council's computers. Part of the money is being earmarked to replace a "dry" fire-fighting system which will soon be outlawed. The council's software is protected by a halon gas fire system. In a fire, the room would be flooded with halon gas, which removes oxygen and extinguishes fire ... But Borough Councillors at today's meeting of North Warwickshire Borough Council's Executive Board will be told that, because the gas can damage the ozone layer, it is now illegal to manufacture it. Chris Brewer, the Council's Director of Resources, wrote in a report that by the end of the year it would not be possible to buy any more gas, and it could not be used by December 2003 anyway. Because of the nature of halon gas, the council must pay to have it disposed of in a controlled manner. "The longer we leave replacing it, the more costly the disposal of the gas becomes," his report adds. Councillors will be told that the computer room has been unchanged since the Council Offices at Atherstone were built in 1980 and refurbishment, including installing a new fire suppressant system, was now necessary.

Article @: <http://iccoventry.icnetwork.co.uk/0100news/0125nwarksnews/page.cfm?objectid=12241831&method=full&siteid=50003>

Source: Evening Telegraph, icCoventry, 30 September 2002

OzoNews is available on the OzonAction Programme web site @:

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

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