

Date: Thu, 15 Apr 1999 11:37:28 -0600
From: Meredith Brown <racer@lanl.gov>
Subject: Green Alert: Refrigeration Salvage Tool

Title: Use of Refrigeration Salvage Tool Eliminates Mixed Waste

Identifier: 1999-LA-LANL-ESH7-0007 Date: 04/14/99

Lesson Learned Statement: Inexpensive, reusable refrigeration salvage tool reduces disposal costs and enhances worker safety.

Discussion of Activities: A defective refrigeration powerhead was removed from an old heat system during maintenance activities. The powerhead, which contained pressurized refrigerant gas, was configured in a manner that prevented technicians from gaining access to recycle the gas in an Environmental Protection Agency-approved manner. Consequently, the powerhead would have to be disposed of as mixed waste. However, the facility where the powerhead was installed was under a mixed waste moratorium. A facility employee took the initiative to research the problem, and he located a special refrigeration salvage tool that allowed personnel to safely tap into the pressurized system and remove the refrigerant in an approved manner. The powerhead was then disposed of as scrap metal rather than mixed waste, and the refrigerant was recycled. The tool, which was purchased from United Refrigeration in Albuquerque, NM, cost \$34, and it can be used repeatedly. Contact United Refrigeration at 505 883 9500 for product specifications and ordering information.

ORIGINATOR: Los Alamos National Laboratory

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DOE FUNCTIONAL CATEGORY: Maintenance

KEYWORDS: refrigeration, pressurized, tool

REFERENCES: n/a

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS: Information in this report is accurate to the best of our knowledge. As a means of measuring the effectiveness of this report, please contact the originator of significant action(s) taken as a result of this report or of any technical inaccuracies you find. Your feedback is appreciated.