

Environmental Standard Operating Procedure

Document Owner: Environmental Division

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Title: Field Mess (MRE Heaters Use/Disposal)

1.0 PURPOSE

The purpose of this Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) is to provide environmental guidelines for the handling and disposal of MRE (Meal, Ready-to-Eat) heaters.

2.0 APPLICATION

This guidance applies to those individuals/units who handle or dispose of MRE heaters aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base (MCLB) Barstow.

3.0 PROCEDURE

3.1 Discussion:

MRE heaters that have not been properly activated must be disposed of as hazardous waste. Disposing of an un-activated MRE heater in a solid waste container is against the law. Un-activated MRE heaters pose a potential fire hazard if they become wet when turned in at a landfill site. MRE heaters must be disposed of in an approved solid waste container after they have been properly activated.

3.2 Operational Controls:

The following procedures apply:

- a. Ensure MSDS's are readily available and current.
- b. Individual user will only use and activate the MRE heater for its intended purpose and will discard the heater properly after activation.
- c. Ensure that un-activated MRE heaters are stored and disposed of as unused hazardous waste (HW).
- d. Separate and properly label each storage container with the HW they store.
- e. Do not store MRE heaters with or near any liquids. MRE heaters are a water-reactive hazardous material.
- f. Do not place MRE heaters near an open flame. Vapors released from activated heaters contain hydrogen, a flammable gas.

g. Only activate MRE heaters in a well-ventilated area. Vapors released from activated MRE heaters can disperse oxygen.

h. Ensure a compatible fire extinguisher is readily available.

i. If there are any specific situations or other concerns not addressed by this procedure contact the MCLB Barstow Environmental Division.

3.3 Documentation and Record Keeping:

The following records must be maintained:

- a. MSDS's for Hazardous Material being stored.
- b. Inspection and training records.

3.4 Training:

All affected personnel must be trained in this Standard Operating Procedure and the following:

- a. Hazard Communication training.
- b. General Environmental Awareness training.

3.5 Emergency Preparedness and Response Procedures:

Refer to the Integrated Contingency Plan (ICP) for Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow.

3.6 Inspection and Corrective Action:

The Environmental Compliance Coordinator (ECC) shall designate personnel to perform inspections. The ECC shall ensure deficiencies noted during the inspections are corrected immediately. Actions taken to correct each deficiency shall be recorded on the inspection sheet.

4.0 REFERENCES

- MCO P5090.2A (Marine Corps Order)
- NSN (National Stock Number): 8970-01-321-9153
- Integrated Contingency Plan (ICP) for Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow