## Compliance Assistance

#### Michael Gage

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection County Environmental and Waste Enforcement Special Investigations and Oversight Unit

#### I'm From The Government, And I'm Here to Help...



#### Compliance Assistance

- "Welcome Wagon"
  - Visit by DEP inspector within 6 months of receiving USEPA Identification Number.
- GreenStart
  - Request assistance from DEP for help with Solid & Hazardous Waste, Water, Air, Pesticides, RTK & TCPA.
- School Chemical Management Project
  - Visit by CEHA agency to examine laboratory storage & disposal practices.
- Generator Seminars
  - Held twice per year to provide training on hazardous waste, universal waste and used oil.
- Compliance Advisories & Warnings
  - Posted to web site & automatically e-mailed to subscribers.

#### "Welcome Wagon"

- USEPA provides monthly listing of newly issued identification numbers. These are researched by DEP to determine if actually new generators or simply a name change.
- Within 6 months of receiving notice an inspection is conducted by DEP.
- Violations are not cited with a Notice of Violation unless egregious or deliberate.
- Follow-up inspection is conducted within a year of initial inspection to confirm compliance.

# GreenStart

A Compliance Assistance
Program for Small Businesses,
Municipalities, and Schools

### What is GreenStout?

- A <u>free</u> multimedia compliance assistance program
- To help small businesses, municipalities, and schools understand compliance requirements for:
  - Air
  - Water
  - Pesticides
  - Right-to-Know
  - Hazardous and Solid Waste
  - Toxic Catastrophe Prevention Act



#### Who is eligible?



- Small business with <100 employees</p>
- Municipalities
- Schools!
- No ongoing enforcement action with DEP

#### How does it work?

- Submit an application to DEP indicating type of assistance
- DEP will contact you to schedule a visit
- DEP conducts the on-site visit
- Compliance is discussed during consultation
- Final report with detailed findings given to facility
- Free follow-up visit if necessary



# What can GreenStaut do for your facility?

- Help you achieve compliance
- Prevent Environmental liability
- Establish contacts within DEP



#### More GreenStart advantages?

- Assist with Best Management Practices (BMP's) in other areas
- Understanding of regulatory obligations/self audit
- 90 day grace period for violations unless serious/egregious nature



# For More Information on GreenStart contact:

NJ Department of Environmental Protection Office of Local Environmental Management Julie Townsend (609) 292-1305

E-mail: greenstart@dep.state.nj.us

Website:

www.nj.gov/dep/enforcement/greenstart.htm

### School Chemical Management Project

- Cost-free inspections & follow-ups by
   County Health Departments and/or NJDEP
- Addresses Best Management Practices for chemicals, pesticides use & universal waste
- Final report with detailed findings
- Assistance with waste disposal

## County Health Departments Participating in School Chemical Program:

- > Bergen
- > Burlington
- > Camden
- > Cumberland
- > Essex
- > Gloucester
- > Hudson

- >Hunterdon
- >Mercer
- >Middlesex
- >Monmouth
- > Passaic
- Salem
- >Sussex

- >Union
- >Warren

#### Benefits

- Improve the health & safety of the local school population
- Saves the schools money on the amount of chemicals purchased, on packaging and disposal.
- Prevents environmental liability



## Dangerous Items Still Being Found In Unsecured Areas:

- CARBON DISULFIDE
- ETHYL ETHER
- LITHIUM METAL
- **POTASSIUM METAL**
- PICRIC ACID
- PERCHLORIC ACID
- **MERCURY**



#### One High School Inspection:

- Chemicals put in cardboard boxes by teachers
   & students and brought to school maintenance
- Rolled across the street to self-storage units
- Leaking/broken bottles reacting with other chemicals inside metal self-storage units
- Storage problems throughout the school
- Spills, chemical reactions
- Immediate clean-up action cost school over \$30,000 to remove the waste materials.

#### Examples of Storage Problems:





#### More Improper Storage:





#### Corroded Vent Above Metal Storage Cabinet:



#### Still Finding Mystery Containers:



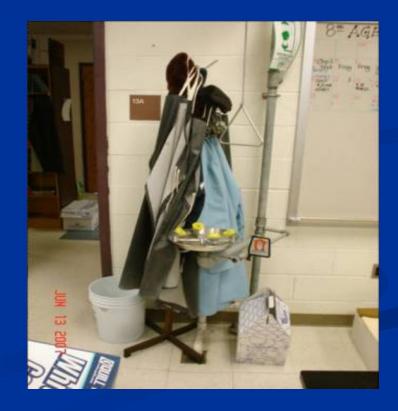


#### Potential Hazards:

■ No anti-roll edges:



Cluttered eyewash station:



#### Unsafe Conditions:

Stacked chemical bottles:



Food in chemical storage refrigerator:



#### Unsafe Conditions:

- Storage above eye-level:
- Opened ethyl etherremoved by DEP:





#### Careless Storage:

Food in chemical storage refrigerator: Unidentified containers:





#### Danger to Students:

Broken thermometers stored in open hood:

Liquid mercury in unlocked cabinet:





#### Top 10 Violations:

- 1. Not marking materials with the date on which they were received.
- 2. Storing incompatible chemicals together.
- 3. Maintaining more than 2 years of chemical supply in storage.
- 4. Storing concentrated acids and bases together.
- 5. Not isolating, or properly storing concentrated oxidizers.
- 6. Storing chemicals above eye level.
- 7. Not properly labeling containers with chemical name, C.A.S. number, and concentration.
- 8. Not labeling storage cabinets with the hazards contained within.
- 9. Not posting emergency telephone numbers and emergency plans.
- 10. Using improper shelves, which do not prevent containers from sliding or rolling off.

#### Fire in High School Chemistry Lab, North Carolina, November 2006



## The School Building Was Completely Destroyed





### For More Information on School Chemical Management Project contact:

NJ Department of Environmental Protection Office of Local Environmental Management Julie Townsend (609) 292-1305

E-mail: greenstart@dep.state.nj.us

Website:

http://www.nj.gov/dep/enforcement/cehacountyinitiative.html

#### Generator Seminars

- Held Twice Per Year
  - March 2006 Lyndhurst, NJ
  - November 2006 Robbinsville, NJ
  - May 2007 Camden, NJ
  - May 2008 Robbinsville, NJ
  - September 2008 Robbinsville, NJ
- Free
- Cover Basic & Advanced topics on hazardous waste, universal waste, Class D recyclables & used oil.

#### Compliance Alerts, Warnings & Updates

#### Enforcement Alerts - anticipated enforcement activities

Enforcement Alerts highlight areas of concern within the DEP where some change will likely result in increased observation of non-compliance and/or more strict enforcement. The change might be a new or modified rule, a shift in DEP policy, or a targeted effort to address a specific environmental issue. By heeding a Enforcement Alert, you may be able to get ahead of the change and avoid non-compliance as well as an associated potentially strict enforcement approach.

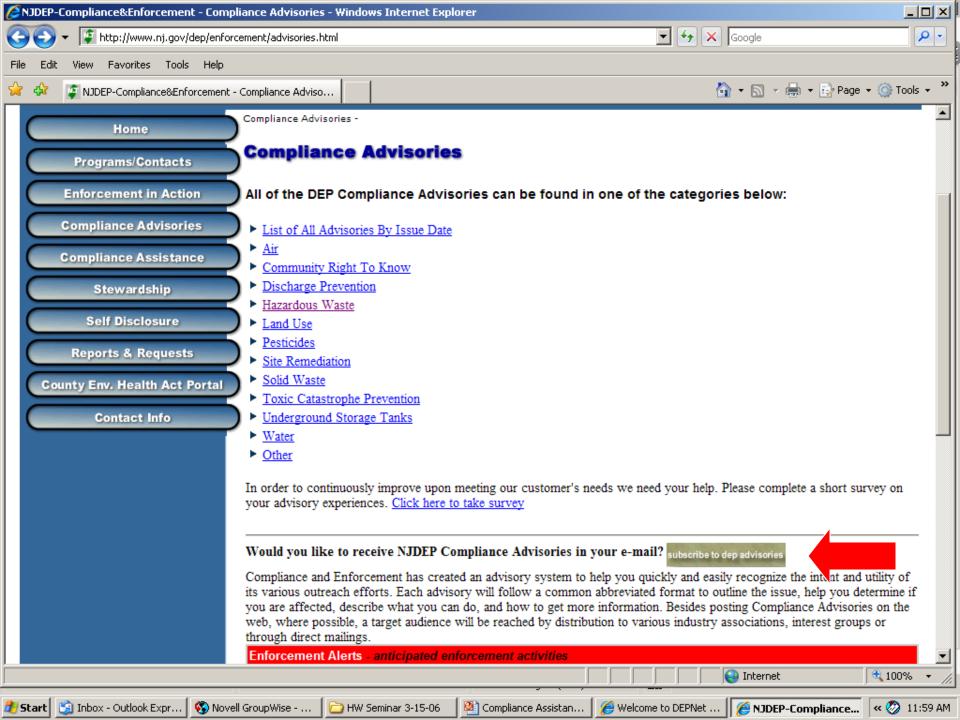
#### Warnings - emerging patterns of non-compliance

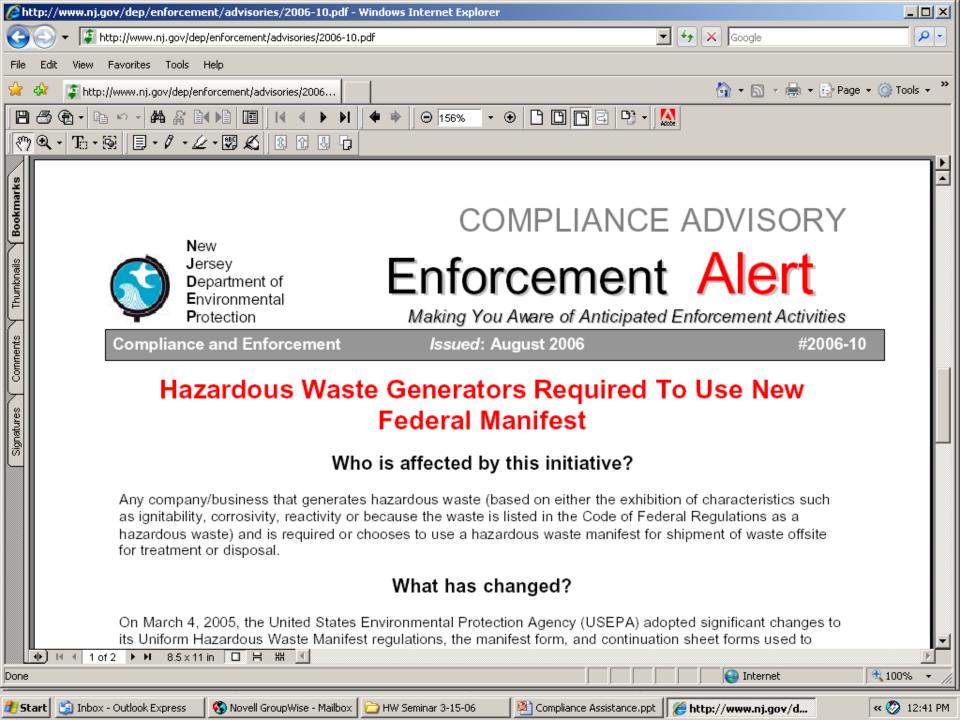
Compliance Advisory Warnings highlight non-compliance issues experienced by others. These problems may be common or recurring or they may be newly emerging serious problems. By heeding Compliance Advisory Warnings you can benefit from the experiences of others and avoid common mistakes. Widespread response to Warnings may prevent an issue from rising to the level of an Enforcement Alert where DEP must initiate new steps to address a problem.

#### Updates - incentives and compliance assistance opportunities

Compliance Advisory Updates highlight an opportunity to improve compliance on your own, reduce your liability or potentially avoid regulation altogether. Compliance Advisory Updates will list the benefits of specific incentives, initiatives, programs and tools as they become available.

- Posted to web site
  - http://www.nj.gov/dep/enforcement/advisories.html
- Automatically e-mailed to subscribers





#### Important Phone Numbers

- DEP Hotline: 1-877-WARNDEP
- Southern Field Office: 856-614-3648
  - Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester & Salem
- Central Field Office: 609-584-4180
  - Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean & Union Counties
- Northern Field Office: 973-656-4470
  - Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Morris, Passaic, Somerset,
     Sussex & Warren Counties