

## U.S. Army Garrison Hawaii – Environmental Compliance Guide

# MEALS, READY TO EAT (MRE) FLAMELESS RATION HEATERS (FRH)

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Meals Ready-to-Eat (MRE), which contain Flameless Ration Heaters (FRHs) consist of a plastic bag containing a piece of fiberboard and powdered magnesium or magnesium alloys along with other materials.

## POTENTIAL HAZARDS

Powdered magnesium is a water reactive chemical. Never store MREs in closed CONEXs, MILVANs or TRICONS.

## WASTE CHARACTERIZATION

Flameless Ration Heaters (FRH) *that have been used to heat the MREs* are considered non-hazardous solid waste. **Unused or damaged** FRHs that are no longer usable, are considered HAZARDOUS WASTE by the Hawaii Department of Health (HDOH).

## HANDLING AND DISPOSAL PROCEDURES

**Step 1:** Whenever possible, use the FRH to heat the MRE.

**Step 2:** All unused FRHs will be collected by the unit's ECO and turned in to the HMCP (contact the HMCP at (808) 656-0720 for appointment).



**Step 3:** All FRHs that have been used to heat the MRE can be disposed of as solid waste in the trash.

**Step 4:** All damaged FRHs will be collected by the unit ECO and managed as a HAZARDOUS WASTE in the HWSSP.

**Step 5:** If units have excess cases of MREs they may be turned in at TISA, Schofield Barracks building 2071.

**Step 6:** If cases of MRE are expired or rejected by TISA, open the MRE and remove the FRHs. The FRHs must be turned in to the HMCP. Once the FRH is removed, the MRE can be disposed of in the general refuse.

**NOTE:** If the FRH is not used to heat the MRE, turn it in to the HMCP. **DO NOT ACTIVATE** the FRH for the sole purpose of disposal. Although this is an acceptable practice on some installations, it is prohibited in the State of Hawaii.