

KULEANA

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT ★ A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY



U.S. ARMY



ONLY RAIN DOWN THE DRAIN

Striving to pass a motor pool inspection? Label the storm drains!

Aloha from Stormwater Compliance at DPW Environmental! We are very excited to announce that we have purchased new stencils for labeling storm drains. These new stencils include our updated spill line (808) 787-1966. To report any accidental spills or dumping of substances other than water down a storm drain, please call the spill number.

Why only rain down the drain?

The new storm drain labeling stencils include the phrase "only rain down the drain" as a reminder that stormwater enters waterways and the ocean without being treated. Runoff often carries pollutants such as dirt, trash, oil, grease, fertilizers and pet waste, which can harm aquatic life in the ocean. By keeping storm drains clear of these pollutants, we can protect our waterways and ensure cleaner, safer water.

Why is labeling storm drains important or relevant for the motor pool?

As part of *U.S. Army Garrison Storm Water Pollution Control Plan*, storm drain labeling is part of the facility's best management practices. During monthly inspections, Environmental Compliance Officers (ECO's) should confirm that all storm water inlets are identified. Identifying and labeling storm drain inlets ensures compliance with clean water regulatory authority. Along with compliance, labeling storm drains helps protect Hawai'i's precious ecosystems and marine life and is in line with the Hawaiian cultural ethic of caring for our island home - mālama 'āina.

Where can I find materials to label storm drains?

The DPW Environmental office is located at 948 Santos Dumont Ave on Wheeler Army Airfield. We are in building 105 on the 3rd floor. Stop by the clean water department and sign out a storm drain label kit!

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A U.S. Army Garrison Hawai'i DPW quarterly newsletter providing up-to-date information and guidance to support environmental compliance.



1 Clear a level area near storm drain with wire brush to remove dirt, rocks and debris. Place square stencil on cleared surface.



2 Paint a white square. Angle spray paint straight down.



3 Remove square stencil.



Step by step:
label your
storm drain

4 Align logo stencil over white square and paint black. Angle spray paint straight down.



5 Remove logo stencil and admire new storm drain label.





USAG Hawai'i Undergoes Hazardous Waste Inspection



Maintaining Compliance and Protecting the Environment

U.S. Army Garrison Hawai'i recently hosted a routine Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) hazardous waste inspection conducted by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 9 and the Hawai'i Department of Health. These inspections are vital to ensuring compliance with federal environmental laws designed to protect our health and environment.

The purpose of these regular checks is to verify that organizations – including military installations – are following best practices for waste management and chemical safety. Beyond simply enforcing regulations, these inspections help identify potential hazards,

address community concerns, and promote responsible environmental stewardship that safeguards public well-being.

During the inspection, EPA and Hawai'i Department of Health representatives reviewed management and storage spaces of hazardous, non-regulated, and universal waste; waste determination procedures; labeling practices and container management; and housekeeping practices. Inspectors also conducted a thorough review of important documentation such as Hazardous Waste Manifests, Land Disposal Restriction (LDR) Forms, the Biennial Report, weekly inspection logs, training records, and the Facility Contingency Plan.

Looking Ahead: Ensuring Continued Compliance

To prepare for future inspections and maintain a safe and sustainable environment, the DPW Environmental Division recommends the following to all USAG Hawai'i units and organizations:

- Ensure all inspection areas are consistently managed for cleanliness, organization, and compliance with RCRA regulations.
- Maintain all requested documentation in a readily accessible format for efficient review.
- Designate an Environmental Compliance Officer (ECO) to accompany inspectors during walkthroughs.



This proactive approach ensures USAG Hawai'i continues to operate responsibly and protect our shared environment.



Hot Topic: Disposing of Flameless Ration Heaters

With frequent training exercises occurring across USAG Hawai'i, it is important to know and follow the correct procedures for disposing of waste from one of the most common items used while in a training environment: the Flameless Ration Heaters (FRH) contained in Meals Ready-to-Eat (MRE). Whether a soldier chooses to eat their rations warm or cold is up to them but heeding proper guidance on FRH disposal is mandatory for all.



The FRH found in most MREs contains powder consisting of a magnesium-iron alloy and salt. The alloy reacts with the salt and water to rapidly produce heat and hydrogen gas. While this process is safe on an individual-use basis, a large quantity of FRHs activated simultaneously creates a risk of fire or explosion. Unused or damaged FRHs are considered hazardous waste by the Hawai'i Department of Health due to the dangerous potential of fire or explosion if many unused FRHs are unintentionally activated at a disposal site.



Soldiers and leaders across the formation need to be vigilant when disposing of this waste item, whether in a training environment or clearing out old supplies. Arm yourself with the proper knowledge and follow these procedures for handling FRHs.

- ⇒ When possible, use the FRH to heat the MRE. A properly used FRH can be disposed of in the regular trash.
- ⇒ DO NOT activate a large number of heaters for the sole purpose of disposal.
- ⇒ DO NOT throw unopened MREs into a refuse dumpster. Collect unused FRHs for proper disposal.
- ⇒ If you find cases of MREs or a large quantity of unused FRHs in the trash, remove all heaters and collect them for proper disposal.
- ⇒ Unused or damaged FRHs can be turned in to the Hazardous Materials Collection Point (HMCP, 808-787-0700). FRHs must be properly packaged for turn in (five bundles of ten, rubber banded and placed in a Ziploc bag).
- ⇒ If units have excess cases of MREs and they do not want to store the MREs for later use; they can contact the Army Food Inspectors (808-433-9851) to start the process of turning in bulk MREs for redistribution.



Labeling Hazardous Material: Why, When and How

Imagine an unlabeled spray bottle containing bleach is sprayed on an incompatible surface because it was thought to be water, or a water bottle full of viscous dark liquid is poured into an oil drum then later determined to have contained an oil and fuel mixture. Improper labeling or failure to label chemicals for identification is one of the most common deficiencies on safety and environmental inspections and could result in an accident, a violation or a large monetary fine. Any number of unfortunate and dangerous situations can be avoided by following the rules and regulations for the proper labeling of hazardous materials.

Why?

Unlabeled or improperly labeled hazardous materials can create dangerous working conditions and waste resources and time. The labeling of new and used material is paramount to ensuring personal and environmental health, safety, and compliance. The installation, state, and federal government all have labeling requirements for certain materials, which include all the different chemicals being used in day-to-day activities in the motor pools such as oils, solvents, and fuel.

Regulations regarding labeling are in place to protect and inform individuals using and/or contacting hazardous materials. Improperly labeled containers also impede spill and emergency response. In the event of a spill or exposure to hazardous material, it is imperative that first responders know what hazard is present so they can apply correct personal protective equipment (PPE) and impose timely and accurate treatment and cleanup methods.

Continued on next page.



Hazardous materials should NEVER be stored in food, soft drink, or water containers. Doing so creates a serious risk of accidental ingestion. Many of these containers are not rated for hazardous material storage and can degrade over time leading to leaks and spills.



When?

Always! The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Hazard Communication 29 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1910.1200 requires that each hazardous chemical in the workplace is appropriately labeled. Hazardous materials in storage must always be accurately labeled with GHS (Globally Harmonized System) label elements. In addition, any chemicals being transferred from their original containers must be placed in a labeled secondary container noting the identity of the chemical and appropriate hazard warning. This is a requirement any time the material is no longer in the possession of the individual who made the transfer, any time the individual leaves the work area, or any time the material is not completely used by the end of the workday.

How?

Hazardous material should always be labeled according to GHS standards and any chemical container should have at least an identification label. Check all containers in your work area and hazardous material storage location for appropriate labeling and replace any labels that are missing or worn off. Ensure that any material transferred out of its original container is in an appropriate secondary container and is legibly and accurately labeled. Consult your ECO inspector for help!

Label, label, label 




A cracked and unlabeled container of blue liquid. This unlabeled container is a compliance violation as well as a potential hazard to workers in this location.






Upcoming Events and Volunteer Opportunities

 [O'ahu Events](#)


 [HI Sustainability Events](#)

 [MWR Events Calendar](#)

 [808 Beach Cleanups](#)

 [Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation](#)

 [Army Natural Resources](#)

 [DLNR Opportunities](#)



Environmental Compliance Officer Class Schedule

The ECO course covers a wide range of environmental management requirements. One primary and one alternate ECO is required at all levels of command. The 3-day course is required to attain ECO certification. **WALK-INS ARE NOT ALLOWED.** For the ECO refresher and senior leader courses click [here!](#)

Class Number	Class Dates	Location: SB 2624 DPW Training Classroom
002-26	02-04 DEC 25	
003-26	03-05 FEB 26	Class Times: 0900-1600
004-26	14-16 APR 26	
Upcoming refresher course: 15 JAN 26		



Contact Us:

Environmental Compliance Branch Office

(808) 787-1966

Recycling

(808) 787-0867 usarmy.hawaii.recycling@army.mil

Clean Air/Safe Drinking Water

(520) 687-2254

Clean Water

(520) 687-2249

(520) 687-2245

ECO Training/Environmental Inspections

(808) 381-4513

Hazardous Waste

Transfer Accumulation Point (TAP): (808) 787-9911

Spill Prevention and Response

(808) 787-1966

TSCA- Lead and Asbestos

(520) 687-2245

