



ON THE LAND

FALL 2017

Household Hazardous Waste - Lake Erie: Don't Waste It!

What is household hazardous waste?

Many products in our homes and garages are flammable, toxic, corrosive, or reactive and are called household hazardous waste. Products such as pesticides, paints, cleaners, oils, automotive fluids, thinners/strippers, acids/bases, and batteries require special care when disposing of them and can catch fire, react or explode under certain circumstances.

Local waterways and public health are impacted when household hazardous waste is disposed of incorrectly.

Why is household hazardous waste a problem?

Household hazardous waste poses many dangers ranging from personal exposure to the substances during use, to contamination of water resources from improper disposal of chemicals down a storm drain or into a ditch where they are transported directly to aquatic ecosystems like Lake Erie. Or when incorrectly disposed of in the garbage, sanitation workers could get injured or chemical reactions can take place in the garbage truck or landfill.



What should you do with household hazardous waste?

- Handle household hazardous waste carefully to avoid injury to yourself or the environment.
- Store wastes in their original container with the labels intact.
- Save household hazardous wastes for a household hazardous waste collection program, which in Cuyahoga County is specific to your community.
- Call your community Service Department for details or go to the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District website.

www.cuyahogarecycles.org

click on "Dispose of Household Hazardous Waste"

Environmental Considerations for Pipeline Projects



*Cleanup of a Rover Pipeline spill near the Tuscarawas River in Stark County, Spring 2017
Photo credit: Ohio EPA*

The Rover Pipeline project is a 713-mile interstate pipeline project that impacts West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, and Canada. This pipeline is designed to transport approximately 3.25 billion cubic feet of natural gas per day to various

locations. On November 3, 2017 Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine filed a lawsuit against Rover Pipeline for multiple infractions of environmental regulations.

These violations have resulted in several discharges of sediment-laden stormwater runoff and other wastes into lakes, rivers, streams, and wetlands over the last several months. This has major environmental impacts on habitats, organisms, our drinking water, and has a domino effect of impacts that continues on down the line.

As stated, the spill in Stark County has directly impacted waterways and wetlands. When Federal, State,

and Local regulations are followed and common Best Management Practices (BMPs) are used, pipeline projects can commence with minimal environmental impact.

Some of these rules and BMP's: Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD), proper placement of spoil piles, phased construction, wetland setbacks, proper permits such as Section 401 Water Quality Certification & Isolated Wetland Permit (EPA), Section 404 Permit (USACE), and Section 10 (USACE), stream specific BMPs, plans for emergency containment, and use of biofuels and biodegradable drilling fluid.

Hold the Salt and Protect the Watersheds



Excess salt in a parking lot

Through monitoring conducted by Cuyahoga SWCD's Euclid Creek and Rocky River Watershed Programs, elevated conductivity and salinity levels have been observed in our local streams throughout the summer and fall. These observations point to road salt as an increasing threat to aquatic organisms in Cuyahoga County.

Rock salt (sodium chloride) is most commonly used to remove ice from roads, parking lots and sidewalks. As snow and ice melt, salt is carried into our lakes, streams

and wetlands, where just one teaspoon can permanently pollute five gallons of water. Chloride from road salt is a major threat to water quality in northeast Ohio and other areas of the country where road de-icing occurs. Since chloride is not easily filtered from water in the natural environment, it builds up over time in the soil and in shallow groundwater. And, since these shallow groundwater tables are the source of stream water during dry weather, chloride levels in streams can remain elevated throughout the year – even in summer!

Because most water quality control practices – detention basins, bioretention cells, etc. – don't remove salt or chloride from runoff, it is extremely important to control salt at the source by being strategic about when, where and how salt is applied.

IMPACTS of ROAD SALT on the AQUATIC ENVIRONMENT

At high concentrations, sodium chloride is toxic to fish and insects, and at low levels it reduces the reproduction and survival rates of their young.

Direct road salt splash can kill plants and grass.

Sodium in road salt can destroy soil stability, decreasing the ability of the soil to filter water, and increasing soil erosion. It can actually cause soil to release more nutrients into water.

Tips for using less road salt at home while keeping pathways safe



- Shovel and follow application directions. The more snow and ice you remove manually during a snowstorm instead of waiting until the end, the less salt or chemical de-icer you will have to use and the more effective it will be when you do use it. Less is more. Save your back and reduce chemical application by evaluating where you need snow

removed. Do you need access to every door or the entire patio? Consider paths versus full snow removal of an area.

- 15°F is too cold for salt to melt snow. Most salts stop working at or below 15°F. An alternate is to use small amounts of sand for traction instead, but remember that sand does not melt ice and too much sand can become sediment pollution if it washes into streams or storm drains.
- Sweep up extra. If salt or sand is visible on dry pavement it is no longer doing any work and will be washed away into

your local streams through a storm drain or ditch system.

- Pet Safety. Even if the de-icer says it's safe for pets - look at the ingredients! Calcium and magnesium chloride can burn their paws. Use potassium acetate (hard to find, so ask to create demand) or just use sand. And when you take your animals on a walk, cover their feet and/or wash them off after a walk.



CUYAHOGA SWCD 68TH ANNUAL MEETING

One of the best times of the year is the Annual Meeting. Each year, in an effort to reach out to landowners throughout the county, the Annual Meeting is held in a different location. This year, on a fabulously beautiful fall day, the meeting was held in the barn at the historic Dunham Tavern Museum in Cleveland.



Justin Husher and group checking out the cover crop site

Justin Husher, SWCD's Horticulture Specialist, led groups of attendees to an on-site area where he is investigating soil health strategies. As this year's featured speaker, he unveiled the Blueprint to Urban Agriculture, an online resource designed to provide basic tools to help urban farmers be more successful.

**Check out Cleveland's
Blueprint to Urban Agriculture**
www.blueprinttourbanagriculture.com

If you missed the Annual Meeting, catch up on what Cuyahoga SWCD has been up to by checking out the 2017 Highlights

www.cuyahogaswcd.org/files/news/2017cswcdhighlights.pdf



Conservation Heroes

Recognizing exceptional conservationists is always gratifying because those who are recognized have exhibited leadership and commitment to their community and conservation.



**COOPERATOR OF
THE YEAR
KYLA WERLIN**



**EDUCATOR OF
THE YEAR
ROY LARICK**



**CONSERVATIONIST OF
THE YEAR
MARY ELLEN STASEK**

Supervisor Election

The Annual Meeting also provides the community an opportunity to elect people to open seats on the Cuyahoga Board of Supervisors. Two seats were open for the 2018-2020 term. A total of 227 votes were cast for five candidates: Christine Balk, Peter Bode, Sherri Lippus, Chad Stephens and Jeremiah Swetel. Tom Holmes, election official and Program Specialist announced that Ms. Lippus and Mr. Swetel were elected. The board and staff were pleased to have a such great group of candidates and encouraged all to stay involved and help promote the importance of conservation efforts.



*Left: Jan Rybka and
Sherri Lippus*



Right: Jeremiah Swetel

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CONGRATULATIONS!



Master Gardener volunteers - Class of 2016

Congratulations to our Conservation Education Specialist, Amy Roskilly, for completing the 2016 coursework and 2017 volunteer hours to become a Master Gardener of Cuyahoga County. Ohio Master Gardeners are Ohio State University trained volunteers empowered to educate others with timely, research-based gardening information. For more information on the Master Gardeners program visit www.cuyahogamg.org



**We need your help to
send students to the
Envirothon competition!**

One of the five subjects students are tested on at Envirothon is Forestry, but unfortunately the money it takes to put the event on doesn't grow on trees. Help us send students across Northeast Ohio to the Envirothon competition on April 26, 2018 at the Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds in Berea, OH.

While the students work hard all year long to study for this competition, we work hard to make it the best we can for them. It is their chance to shine and show their environmental knowledge! They also get to see what natural resource professionals do and many have gone on to careers in the environmental field. Funds will be used for transportation, signage, substitute teacher costs, lunch, awards, and testing materials. All donations are tax-deductible.

More information can be found on our website at www.cuyahogaswcd.org/programs/envirothon or by contacting Amy Roskilly at aroskilly@cuyahogaswcd.org 216/524-6580, ext. 1005.