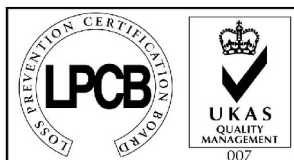


YOUR LIFE
YOUR WORLD
YOUR ENVIRONMENT



Guide to Environmental Protection





ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

The company recognise that its activities in the Fire Sprinkler industry have an impact on the environment. This impact may be in the immediate vicinity of each site or more widely through the consumption of raw materials and energy, distribution of products and services, and emissions to air land and water.

To minimise this impact to as low as reasonably achievable, Vipond recognise that environmental protection and prevention of pollution is integral to business operations.

Vipond is therefore committed to the following:

- Developing, implementing and maintaining an effective Environmental Management System based on the requirements of ISO 14001 to ensure continual improvement in the company's environmental performance.
- Monitoring environmental legislation, regulations and codes of practice that are relevant to the company's operations and endeavouring to take reasonable actions to ensure compliance.
- Developing environmental awareness and assigning individual responsibility for environmental management amongst employees at all levels in the company.
- Striving to conduct its activities in a manner designed to eliminate or minimise releases to air, land and water.
- Utilising, where viable, materials and products from sustainable sources, and adopting waste minimisation techniques and good house keeping practices to ensure the most efficient use of non sustainable resources.
- Ensuring that all environmental aspects are considered for new or existing contracts, methods, processes or equipment, in order to minimise adverse environmental impacts.
- Seeking methods of improving the environmental performance of the company's key suppliers and contractors.
- Communicating openly and honestly with employees, customers, neighbours, regulator and any other interested party with regard to environmental protection.
- Developing and implementing procedures and plans to address any abnormal environmental incident and emergency situations.
- Striving to achieve compliance with documented environmental objectives and targets set to improve the company's environmental situations.

Signed

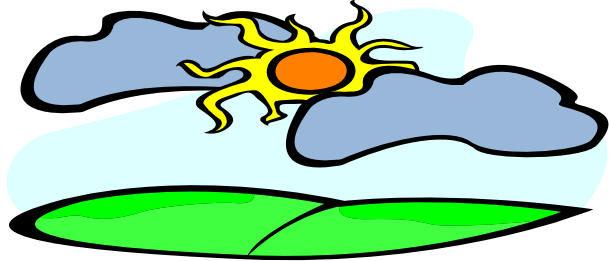
Sept 2004

John McCaan Managing Director

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

WHAT IS THE ENVIRONMENT

The term environment refers to all our surroundings - air, water, land, and includes plants and animals. The environment is a complex system and an adverse impact on one part can ultimately affect other parts as well.



WHAT IS POLLUTION

Pollution means the introduction of anything into the environment in quantities which can harm human or other living things. Pollution can also damage building materials.

In a wider sense pollution can also be caused by excessive noise, offensive smells and rubbish. In fact, pollution can be defined as anything that interferes with our enjoyment of the environment.



WATER POLLUTION

Water is a vital resource, and wholesome water is essential to life. The water we use today is the same water the Romans used. We cannot make new water. Pollutants from various sources can find their way into our inland waters and seas.

Therefore care should be taken not to allow spillage's of chemicals to enter drains.

The foul sewer drains take waste from the toilets and sinks to the sewage treatment works. The waste is treated, the solid component removed and the cleaned water is returned to the river.



SOLID WASTES

The traditional way of disposing of solid waste has been to bury it in holes in the ground - a practise known as landfill. The number of available landfill sites are steadily running out and stricter environmental controls are making waste disposal much more expensive.

There are 2 types of waste:

General (Controlled) Waste - this includes paper, plastic, wood, glass.



Hazardous (Special) Waste - this is waste which needs special treatment and includes certain chemicals and solvents.



DOING YOUR BIT !

The ways you can help :

- **Prevent waste being generated or reduce the amount of waste generated.**
- **Conserve natural resources such as water and reduce energy usage.**
- **Re-use and recycle materials and products where possible-**
- **Prevent pollution and dispose of waste responsibly.**

PREVENTING LEAKS

Ensure your work area or the piece of plant you are responsible for is well maintained. Even small leaks (of water, compressed air, other substances) can add up to significant losses over time - so do report them using the work request system. A running tap discharges several litres per minute - check taps are not left running.

PREVENT SPILLAGES

Spillages can contaminate soil and water. Take care when pouring, handling or transporting substances and when connecting pipes and hoses. Taps and valves can easily be left open and lead to the loss of valuable materials and resources.

In the event of spillage use the spills kit to clear up the spill and prevent entry into the drains. Report spillages using the incident reporting system.



PREVENT WASTE

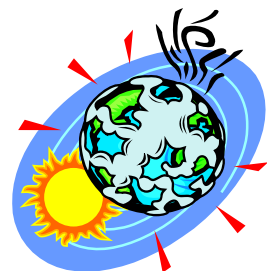
A positive step to help minimise waste is to prevent poor quality in the workplace. This includes avoiding damage to materials and goods, and preventing the production of defective products which must be scrapped. Preventing waste avoids using valuable resources and using up landfill space.



THE OZONE LAYER

Some 30-40km above the earth's surface is a diffuse layer of ozone gas - the ozone layer. This filters out harmful ultra-violet (UV) rays from the sun, protecting plant and animal life, including us. In 1985 scientists found a hole in the ozone layer and since then have found a thinning of the ozone layer elsewhere.

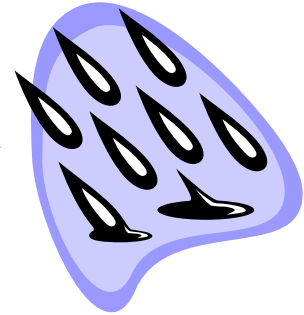
This loss of ozone is due to CFC (chloro-fluoro-carbons) chemicals escaping into the atmosphere from aerosols, spray paints, solvents, adhesives and refrigeration equipment.



ACID RAIN

Rain is naturally slightly acidic. However, emissions of sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxides are combining with moisture in the air to increase this acidity. These pollutants are emitted by power stations, industry and motor vehicles, largely through the burning of fossil fuels, especially coal and oil.

Acid rain damages buildings and materials and has killed thousands of lakes and forests in Scandinavia and Scotland.



PHOTOCHEMICAL SMOG



Modern day smog refers to a mixture of pollutants which form a haze over cities, particularly in summertime. This smog is formed by chemical reactions which occur in sunlight, involving nitrogen oxides and VOC's (volatile organic compounds) and build up ozone at ground level.



A major source of these pollutants is motor vehicles.

Although ozone is essential high up in the atmosphere (ozone layer), at ground level it can be a major environmental problem since it attacks the eyes, nose, throat and lungs as well as damaging plants.

REDUCING ENERGY

Reducing energy usage is one of the most effective ways of conserving a finite resource and of cutting emissions of "greenhouse" gases and pollutants that contribute to acid rain and photochemical smog.

Think about where you are using energy at work;

- can equipment be switched off.
- can lights be switched off.
- is heating being used effectively. Can room thermostats be turned down.



MATERIAL REDUCTION

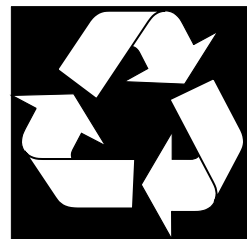
As with energy reduction, by cutting the use of materials you can help conserve resources and reduce the potential for waste and pollution. Some things to think about:

- ask the question do I really need to use this?
- can cleaning materials be diluted?
- limit the amount of photocopying and use double sided copies as much as possible.
- send e-mails instead of memos.

RE USE RECYCLE AND SEGREGATE WASTE

Look at ways of using items again such as pallets, boxes, packaging, envelopes. Can you make use of scrap paper - turn them into note paper or memo pads.

Recycling means looking at ways that waste materials can be collected and reprocessed rather than scrapped to landfill. Ensure that all items that can be recycled go into bins or skips that are specifically for that material(e.g. paper, cardboard, metal etc.). Remember that putting other waste materials into a container set aside for recyclable waste materials can lead to their becoming contaminated so they cannot be recycled.



DO IT AT HOME

The ideas outlined above can all be used in the home :

- the different types of waste can be separated out and taken to recycling centres. Many councils sites have collection points for waste such as glass, metal cans, paper.
- save energy by switching off lights and turn thermostats down for heating.
- re use plastic bags, boxes and tins rather than throw them away.
- save fuel - cycle to work!