



Manitoba

# MOPIA

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## Stratospheric Ozone Layer & Atmosphere Protection

MOPIA's Monthly E-Bulletin for our Subscription Members and Select Stakeholders

### Sun Awareness Key this Summer



MOPIA welcomed Lauren Griffith-Parker to our Team this July. She will be focused on providing the most recent sun awareness information and sharing this with our stakeholders and the public. MOPIA extends appreciation to the Urban Green Team Initiative for sponsoring this project.

The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that as many as 65,161 people a year worldwide die from too much sun exposure.

This is mostly from malignant melanoma skin cancer. This number is expected to increase every time 1% of the ozone layer is depleted, as 2% more of harmful UVB rays are able to reach the surface of our planet. About 90% of non-melanoma skin cancer is caused by ultra-violet radiation (UVR) exposure.

The incidence of cortical cataracts, which is the leading cause of blindness, is also predicted to increase. WHO has suggested that up to 20% of cataracts may be caused by overexposure to UV radiation.

Too much UV radiation over-exposure can also harm crop yields leading to less plant productivity. Increased cases of short and long term health effects which can lead to a loss of immunity of diseases can also be a result.

Despite daunting statistics, there is hope. Many companies and organizations are doing their part in phasing out the use of ozone depleting substances (ODS). And while they are working to prevent increases in UV levels, we can take steps to protect ourselves.

Look for broad-spectrum sunblock, one that is SPF 30+ and water-resistant. Wear light baggy clothing, large brimmed hats and sunglasses. Limit time spent in the sun between 11am and 4 pm. And most importantly, check your skin regularly and consult a doctor if you notice any abnormality.

Credits: World Health Organization / [www.who.org](http://www.who.org)

### Montreal Protocol Meeting Ready for Landmark HFC Amendment(s)?

The 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol will be taking place in Bali, Indonesia this coming Fall.

Already, two significant proposals to amend the Protocol have been introduced for consideration.

The first proposal is by the Federated States of Micronesia and the second by Canada and the USA "The North American Proposal". Both proposals attempt for the first time include HFC's under the Protocol. This was something that was attempted last year and was pushed off to the Kyoto Protocol negotiations unsuccessfully. Both proposals are geared to phase-down HFC consumption globally. See the actual text: [http://ozone.unep.org/Meeting\\_Documents/oewg/31oewg/conf-presession-en.shtml](http://ozone.unep.org/Meeting_Documents/oewg/31oewg/conf-presession-en.shtml) and look under the "proposed amendment" heading.

These proposals will first be discussed at the 31<sup>st</sup> Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol being held in Montreal (1-5 August, 2011). MOPIA's Chair, Mr. George Kurowski, will be attending the OEWG in Montreal. MOPIA will keep you apprised of the progress and any final outcomes.

### MOPIA Coming to Winkler and Steinbach

MOPIA has already hosted Program Outreach sessions (aimed at our stakeholders who use, purchase and handle refrigerants) in Thompson, Winnipeg, The Pas, Flin Flon, Brandon, Morris and Dauphin so far. Stakeholder feedback has been very valuable.

Our sessions are free and include information packed into an hour long PowerPoint session. Learn about your regulatory obligations, new and emerging refrigerants and industry technologies and trends. See us next in:

Winkler	July 14	Days Inn	12 noon
Steinbach	July 21	Days Inn	12 noon

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## HCFC's are being Phased-Out

The manufacture and importation of HCFC (i.e. HCFC 22 or 123) air conditioning systems into Canada took effect January 2010. That's not to say HCFC systems are not available or can not be sold. This, as some Canadian enterprises may have ordered supplementary inventory near the time when the restrictions were taking effect.

However, with the on-going phase-out of HCFC's globally, hitting 75% in 2010 and 90% in 2015, one can see that the lifespan of any HCFC piece of equipment will be impacted by the phase-down. Availability of HCFC's is likely to decrease and one can only speculate how the price will be affected.

At present, alternative refrigerants are available for residential air conditioning systems (i.e. HFC 410a, AZ 20, 407C, etc.) and even chillers (i.e. HFC 134a and others). Homeowners to property managers and building owners should be aware of the active HCFC phase-out and how this may influence current and future equipment decisions.

See: [www.ec.gc.ca/ozone/default.asp?lang=En&n=D57A0006-1](http://www.ec.gc.ca/ozone/default.asp?lang=En&n=D57A0006-1)

## Next One-Day Training is July 23

MOPIA continues to offer the one-day environmental and regulation awareness certification training class.

If you know someone who may be interested or plans to handle regulated products (i.e. refrigerant or parts), they should sign-up to take a future class. Obtain the training registration form from our website at: [www.mopia.ca](http://www.mopia.ca) or by calling or emailing MOPIA. The next all-day class is scheduled for Saturday, July 23 in Winnipeg. The current cost of the class is \$175 (plus tax). MOPIA's training program is among the most current and affordable in North America.

## Retirement Wishes to a Leader!



Mr. Rajendra Shende, recent Head of the OzonAction Unit of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) recently retired after nearly 20 years of dedication and initiative.

MOPIA's Mark Miller got to know him well through sharing ideas, collaborating in study tours and hosting him here in Manitoba.

He is an outstanding diplomat, mentor, friend and architect for the environment. Best wishes to Mr. Shende for a long, healthy and enjoyable retirement from MOPIA's Team!



## Refrigerant Leak Repairs

Manitoba has an official and approved Leak Test Procedure that must be followed before any refrigerant is re-introduced into a system. See [www.mopia.ca](http://www.mopia.ca) and click compliance.

Repairs to systems must be permanent, not short term patches or other less permanent fixes.

Recent questions have come up regarding the use of refrigerant leak sealant products on the market under the names "Quick Seal" and "Super Seal" and others. Can they be used?

Under Manitoba's Prescribed Leak Test Procedure, a product like these may be used in the instance where no leak is found by first using one of the acceptable leak testing methods (including: electronic leak detection, halide flame, soap and bubble, ultrasonic, fluorescent dye, standing vacuum test or standing nitrogen pressure test). Also note, some of these products state that the refrigerant is deemed contaminated upon its use when recovered. Become familiar with these products and their use before use.

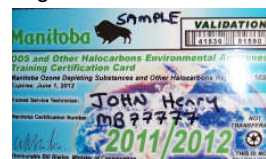
## Remember to Renew 2011-2012

The 2011-2012 certification renewal season is here. All 2010-11 certification cards expired on JUNE 1<sup>st</sup>.

MOPIA sent out renewal forms to some 6,000 individuals in May. If you haven't received yours you can obtain it on our website or by contacting MOPIA directly via email or phone.

The 2011-2012 renewal fee (\$25) remains unchanged once again. MOPIA also offers a monthly E-Bulletin subscription and/or voting membership for those interested. Take advantage of these options to hear the latest. MOPIA is among the most engaged and active organizations in refrigerant and atmosphere awareness in the world. Renewals can be paid by cheque, money order, credit card(s), debit (in-person) or by cash (in-person).

Upon renewal, a new wallet size certification card will be issued to all persons beginning very shortly. Certification renewal is mandatory for anyone purchasing or working directly with regulated refrigerants. Persons who miss renewing may be obligated to re-enroll into a training session or risk significant penalties under the Manitoba Ozone Depleting Substances and Other Halocarbons Act.



At left, a sample of the new 2011-2012 certification card.