

Biological and chemical terrorism addressed at safety dinner

Expert says local emergency responders prepared for crisis



Buzz Melton addresses emergency responders from Orleans and Niagara Counties at FMC's 21st Annual Safety Dinner held Tues., Nov. 6 at the Rib House in Newfane.

C.B. "Buzz" Melton, an emergency response expert, offered insights on the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center, and chemical and biological terrorism at FMC Middleport's 21st Annual Safety Dinner.

Think, use experts

"As emergency responders, your purpose is to protect the public," he said. Melton's recommendations were:

- **think, don't just regurgitate information learned**
- **rely on subject matter experts**
- **stop listening to ghost stories**

"Keep things in perspective. Four deaths from anthrax are matched in about two hours of traffic fatalities. The relative risk of anthrax to the population is small," he said.

Consider "risk"

"Remember risk equals hazard plus the probability of occurrence." Melton said that vitamin D, beneficial in the proper dose, can also be lethal. "The difference is exposure."

He explained that vitamin D and parathion, an insecticide, are deadly at the same total dosage. But a person would have to drink 173,000 gallons of milk to be exposed to the fatal vitamin D dosage.



"The dose makes the poison," he emphasized. "Let's use good science, not science fiction."

He said vaccinating for smallpox should be considered carefully. According to Melton, we know from experience that thousands would have bad reactions to the vaccine

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is produced to inform the community about issues related to the FMC Middleport plant, the environment and the local community.

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735-3761
Ext. 289*

with your questions, comments or concerns.

Agencies request new background study

History

Arsenic was an ingredient in products formerly produced at the FMC Middleport plant from 1928 to 1974. Under laws adopted in the 1970s and 1980s, arsenic is now classified as a hazardous substance. Under several programs including **RCRA**, FMC and the Agencies conducted studies in the 1980s and 1990s of the presence and extent of arsenic in soils and groundwater at the Middleport plant.

These studies identified areas off the plant site where the levels of arsenic could be associated with migration from the FMC plant.

They also provided data on local soil **arsenic background**. The studies indicated local soil background arsenic levels range from 4.4 **ppm** to 56.1 ppm.

New study proposed

The **Agencies** have proposed a re-evaluation of local background soil arsenic levels that would include a collection of 75 to 150 additional **soil samples** from residential properties in the Gasport area. The soils in Gasport are similar to Middleport soils but would not have been potentially impacted by arsenic from past operations at the Middleport FMC plant. FMC has been meeting with the Agencies to discuss the details of the proposed program.

We have shared this request with members of the Middleport Community Advisory Panel and provided information on the Middleport Web site and in this newsletter. FMC has submitted comments to the Agencies on

the proposed plan to re-evaluate background, and has agreed to perform this program. We expect to begin collecting soil samples this spring.

Soil sampling

The sampling locations for the new study have not been identified at this time. When they are identified, FMC will obtain permission from residents. The Agencies would oversee soil sampling conducted. The samples would be analyzed in an independent lab, and results will be reported to the Agencies and to respective property owners.



RCRA progress to date

The Agencies are currently reviewing data collected in the revised draft **RCRA Facility Investigation Report** FMC submitted in February 1999. Both the 2000 well sampling program and the soil background study provide additional data for the **RFI**. FMC has implemented a number of **interim actions** under the **RCRA corrective action program** such as the schooyard remediation project. FMC will continue to evaluate possible new interim actions and will inform the community about these actions and the RCRA corrective action program in this newsletter, on Middleport's Web site and by other means.

DEFINITIONS

AGENCIES - United States Environmental Protection Agency, New York State Department of Health, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

ARSENIC - naturally occurring element in soil and water. Arsenic has been widely used as an ingredient in pesticides, medicines and wood preservatives. Pesticides that contained arsenic were produced at the FMC plant from 1928 to 1974.

BACKGROUND - a typical or average level of a substance found in soil, surface water or groundwater. The levels present may be due to natural conditions or human activities unrelated to FMC's sources or operations. The Agencies previously determined local arsenic background levels for arsenic in soil in Middleport ranged from 4.4 ppm to 56.1 ppm.

INTERIM ACTION - an action taken to control and/or eliminate a release of hazardous waste before the RCRA corrective action process is completed and finalized. The Roy-Hart schooyard remediation project was an interim action.

PPM - parts per million. A very small unit of concentration of a substance. (One part per million is equal to one penny in \$10,000.)

RCRA - Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. Federal law that protects human health and the environment with respect to generation, management and disposal of solid and hazardous waste.

RCRA Corrective Action Program - evaluates the nature and extent of releases of hazardous waste or constituents from facilities permitted under RCRA. It includes investigation and implementation of corrective measures if needed.

RCRA Facility Investigation (RFI) - investigative phase of RCRA corrective action process. The process determines the nature and extent of releases of hazardous waste at a facility. Can include collection and analysis of soil and water samples.

SOIL SAMPLES - samples of soil collected for testing to determine what substances are present and at what levels.

For more information about the FMC Middleport plant, environmental issues or our role in the community go to:

www.teapothollow.com/fmc.htm

or call:

Patt Fagan at 735-3761, Ext. 289
Mike Hinton, NYSDEC at 851-7220
Matt Mortefolio, NYSDEC at
518-402-8594

Visitors greeted at new front gate

by Brian Vain, Plant Manager



At FMC's Annual Safety Dinner emergency management specialist Buzz Melton spoke about being prepared and keeping risk in perspective. Due to recent world events, we have considered both in regards to safety and security at FMC's Middleport facility.

Since the plant is no longer a manufacturing facility, but rather a mixing and packaging plant, there is little material on-site that is flammable or that could be released as vapor. Sprinkler and alarm systems are installed throughout the plant. The emergency alarm system can automatically dial our local fire department 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and we work closely with our local emergency responders.

With that said, we have implemented a new procedure at our entrance gate, which is now closed at all times. Visitors must call the front office to identify themselves. After approval, the gates are opened by the office staff via remote access.

Our local emergency responders who attended Melton's presentation know that being prepared is key to safety, and we are pleased to have had Buzz work with us in Middleport.

Please call me at 735-3761, Ext. 364 with questions you have about safety or the materials we work with at FMC in Middleport.



FMC holds extinguisher refresher course on-site

Ed Doran put out any doubt about how to use a fire extinguisher at FMC's annual safety day. All plant employees took the refresher course taught by Doran, a member of FMC's on-site Emergency Response Team.



Supervised by the Team, each employee practiced extinguishing a fire in a controlled situation.

Ed also put together a collection of visual and hands on "dos and don'ts" to demonstrate basic ways to keep the home and workplace safe.



Father and son thank you



Middleport youth baseball league Coach Rich Klee and his son Richie, delivered a thank you card to FMC. Local businesses sponsor teams in the league. FMC, where young Richie's grandfather, Rich Klee Sr. works, was their 2001 sponsor. The card, signed by the whole team, is on display in the employee lunchroom.

United Way gets 98% participation



98% of the employees at FMC made pledges for the 2001 United Way campaign. Because of their efforts, FMC Corporation is adding matching funds. \$11,600 will be donated to the United Ways of Western Orleans and Niagara Counties.

To review documents related to environmental activities at the plant, visit the FMC repository at the Middleport Free Library 9 South Vernon Street Middleport, NY 14105 (716) 735-3281

Neighbors enjoy Open House



Nearly 300 Middleport residents enjoy FMC's Open House Sat., Oct. 13 with lunch, tours of our mixing and packaging operations and our on-site water treatment plant.

Fingerprinting with the kids was easy thanks to the Niagara County Sheriff's Department. Both the Middleport Police and Fire Departments showed off their latest equipment including a thermal imaging device used to find people who may be inside a burning building.



FMC's products and information about the American Chemistry Council's Responsible Care program were on display. FMC's on-site Emergency Response Team provided lots of blood pressure checks while Middleport CAP members had fun helping the kids decorate mini-pumpkins for Halloween.



Residents proudly sign "Big Thanks" cards for our local emergency responders in recognition of their service and dedication to our community. Many thanks to all those who made FMC's Open House a big success!

Please take a moment to share your thoughts on the enclosed comment card.

Each returned comment receives a personalized follow-up response.

Comments are shared with the regulatory Agencies, elected officials and FMC staff.

Topics from returned comment cards have covered a wide variety of issues:

- THE ENVIRONMENT**
- HEALTH AND SAFETY**
- THE FUTURE OF FMC**
- PLANT OPERATIONS**
- THE REGULATORY AGENCIES**
- PRESENTATION/TOUR REQUESTS**

**OR E-MAIL US AT
BRIAN_VAIN@FMC.COM**



Middleport's

Valued Neighbor



NEW ON THE WEB

On Main Street -

www.teapothollow/mainstreet.htm

December Village Board Notes

Middleport Yellow Pages

Middleport's Canal Connection

Middleport's Underground Railroad Connection

On the Commons -

www.teapothollow/thecommons.htm

Teapot Hollow Journal - Bands and Bullfrogs

E-Digest - Monsters at Middleport Fire Hall

Middleport's Valued Neighbor

www.teapothollow/fmc.htm

Expert Gives Advice on Chem/Bio Terrorism

Baseball Team Delivers Thank You

www.teapothollow.com

We want to hear what you think!
Please return this card to us with your thoughts.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

I would like to receive further information about FMC's Middleport plant.

Please send this newsletter to the name(s) and address(es) listed:

I would like FMC to make a presentation to my organization

I am interested in a tour of the FMC Middleport plant.

It is okay for FMC to share my comments with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.

I would like more information about the FMC Middleport Web site.

My specific question or comment is:

THANK YOU!

Expert addresses chem/bio terrorism... continued

and perhaps hundreds of people would die. "Let things develop. Don't respond too early," he suggested.

Advice for the future

"Responding to a chemical or biological situation is the work safety responders are prepared for using the same tools, skills and protective equipment," Melton pointed out.

"Planning is important, but think. Rely on ingenuity and apply the right skill at the right time," he advised. "There is no plan available for leadership."

Melton has M.S. degrees in Chemistry and Environmental Science from Johns Hopkins University, was Baltimore City Fire Battalion Chief until 1995, and has been a consultant for FMC and public agencies. He played a key role during the July 2001 tunnel fire in Baltimore.

Melton is on the faculty at Johns Hopkins University and the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy where he teaches Environmental Science and Emergency Medicine. He can be contacted at ChiefBuzzMelton@aol.com.



Walking on eggs

Buzz Melton stresses the importance of giving precise directions while working with members of FMC's on-site Emergency Response Team. Partners talked each other through an egg maze to demonstrate the importance of communicating clearly.

FMC Community *Connection*



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