

HARC Mission

- Encouraging, facilitating and promoting research, development, and approval of environmentally and technologically acceptable halon alternatives and special hazard fire protection agents and systems.
- Facilitating the participation of the fire protection industry in the development of national and international policies on the use of halons, halon alternatives and special hazard fire protection agents and systems.
- Providing an organization through which all individuals or firms engaged in or associated with the manufacture, distribution, support, testing, or use of halons, halon alternatives and special hazard fire protection agents and systems may be united for the purpose of sponsoring technical activities and disseminating information to industry and the general public.

Membership Information - Your Opportunity to Make a Difference

Membership in HARC will allow your company access and input into government/regulatory processes and standards development activities. As a HARC member you will be kept up-to-date on the latest research into new agents and systems and on developments in other areas such as halon recycling and destruction. Most importantly, you will have a resource to guide you through the complex world of environmental regulation and a voice to express your concerns.

HARC is a non-profit trade association originally formed in 1989 to promote the development and approval of halon alternatives. HARC serves as an information clearinghouse and a focal point for cooperation between government and industry on issues of importance to special hazard fire protection. Members include alternative agent manufacturers, equipment manufacturers, distributors, recyclers, and end-users.

Membership is available on the Board of Directors (\$7,500 per year) or as a non-voting General Member (\$2,500 per year).

Join **HARC** Now!

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Climate Change Policy Change Political Change

What effect will changes today have for fire suppression agents tomorrow?

In this world of change, one constant remains as the resource and voice for the fire protection industry.



Helping you understand the new green world

Both science and politics are currently driving a wave of new policies that could have a significant impact over the next decade on some of the agents we use for fire suppression.

These policies could influence the cost and availability of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), leading agents for special hazards that are also greenhouse gases. They could also influence the cost and availability of recycled halons, which are ozone depleting substances and greenhouse gases that are no longer manufactured, but are still needed for certain critical fire protection uses.

Right now is a critical time for the special hazard fire suppression industry

Key decisions related to the regulation of greenhouse gases are likely to be made by local, national, and international governments over the next few years.

- Small nuances in the design of the regulations, such as how production allowances are allocated, could influence how they affect users of HFCs.

- A slow phase down of production may have very little impact on the use of HFCs in fire protection for many years, but it could raise the cost of HFCs in the future to the point that they might not be as competitive with other options.

Many such questions could remain unanswered until actual implementation of the regulations, which is not likely to occur until 2012 at the earliest.

Why Join HARC

Information

No other organization is more keyed into all of the environmental issues that effect fire protection than HARC. Over the past few months HARC members have received detailed memos summarizing proposed US climate change legislation that sets up a separate program for HFCs, and international discussions on adding HFCs to the Montreal Protocol. Both of these proposals could be resolved this year, or may continue to be discussed for another few years.

Neither proposal is likely to have any immediate impact on the fire protection industry, but uncertainty in the details of future regulations could cause disruption in the marketplace long before any regulations actually take affect. The best way to combat uncertainty is with knowledge, and the best way to obtain that knowledge when it comes to the impacts of future climate regulations on fire protection is to become a member of HARC.

Facilitation

One of the foremost goals of HARC is to facilitate the participation of industry in the development of policies on the use of special hazard fire protection agents and systems. Over the last 20 years we have developed a unique working relationship with government agencies concerned with the ozone depletion and greenhouse gas issues. This allows HARC to act as a focal point for communication and cooperation between government and industry on issues of importance to special hazard fire protection. HARC provides the only forum where all parts of the fire protection industry, agent manufacturers, equipment manufacturers, distributors, end-users, and regulators, can meet to resolve differences and work together on common issues.

Leadership

HARC has helped to demonstrate the leadership of the fire protection community on the climate change issue with the creation of the Voluntary Code of Practice for the Reduction of Emissions of HFC and PFC Fire Protection Agents (VCOP) and the HFC Emissions Estimating Program (HEEP). These programs are intended to focus the industry's efforts on minimizing emissions of HFCs and PFCs through training, education, and the reporting of emissions. They were recently highlighted by the US Environmental Protection Agency as key voluntary efforts by industry to reduce the environmental impacts of high-GWP replacements for ozone-depleting substances.