

The NASSCO Tidepool

A Collection of Environmental News from the Shipyard and Our Community

Environmental Engineering Mission Statement

General Dynamics NASSCO Environmental Engineering is dedicated to maintaining an Environmental Management System that continually strives to go beyond regulatory compliance.

General Dynamics NASSCO Environmental Engineering is committed to conducting all operations in a manner that safeguards the health and safety of all employees and the public, preserves natural resources, and protects the environment. This commitment to protecting the air, water, and land is carried out through energy conservation initiatives, recycling programs, and on-going process improvements.



GENERAL DYNAMICS
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NASSCO 'Takes It Back' with Oscar the Grouch



Deputy Director Leonard Robinson of Cal EPA, Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and NASSCO Environmental Engineering Specialist Kacey Christie at the IEA's Earth Day event

For the third year in a row, General Dynamics NASSCO joined with other IEA (Industrial Environmental Association) companies in partnership with the County's Office of Pollution Prevention for a Public Universal Waste Education & Outreach event. This year's focused on fluorescent bulbs and tubes. In attendance and supporting this Earth Day event was Greg Cox, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors and Leonard Robinson of DTSC to highlight DTSC's California "Take it Back" effort featuring Sesame Streets' Oscar-the-Grouch's Not in my Trash Can! campaign.

General Dynamics NASSCO joined other IEA companies by agreeing to educate our employees on the proper disposal of fluorescent bulbs and tubes. Currently in San Diego County the Household Hazardous Waste sites and IKEA collect used fluorescent bulbs and tubes. In recognition for participation, NASSCO received a certificate from San Diego County Supervisor Gregory Cox and an Oscar-The Grouch Take-It-Back campaign certificate from Leonard Robinson, Deputy Director, DTSC.



Fluorescent bulbs and tubes contain mercury and are not allowed in the garbage! As part of General Dynamics NASSCO's environmental responsibility program, we are sending out this message to make you aware of the proper disposal of fluorescent bulbs and lamps. Used fluorescent tubes and lamps should not be thrown in the trash. They contain mercury and are considered by law as a prohibited universal waste stream. The following is a list of Household Hazardous Waste Sites available in San Diego County.

PERMANENT HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE FACILITIES IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY					
Existing Facilities	Location	Days/Hours of Operation for Residents	Jurisdictions Served	Residential Hotline	Resident Appt. Required
Coronado	1001 Sixth Street Coronado, CA 92118	Saturdays - 10am to 2pm	• Coronado	(619) 522-7382	No
Chula Vista	1800 Maxwell Road City of Chula Vista Public Works Yard	Saturdays - 9am to 1pm	• Chula Vista • Imperial Beach • National City • County Uninc. Areas	(619) 691-5122	No
El Cajon	1001 West Bradley Avenue EL CAJON, CA 92020 (Waste Management Transfer Station)	2 nd and 4th Saturday of each month - 9am to 2pm	• El Cajon, • Santee • Unincorporated Areas	(619) 598-5100	Yes
Escondido	1044 W. Washington Ave. Escondido, CA 92025	Two Saturdays per month from 9am - 3pm (Call for exact days)	• Escondido	760-745-3203	Yes
La Mesa	8184 Commercial Drive La Mesa, CA 91941 (EDCO Transfer Station)	One event every other month (Call for more info.)	• La Mesa • Lemon Grove	(619) 287-5696 x4270	Yes
Oceanside	2880 Industry Street, Oceanside (Waste Mgmt. Of North County)	Two Saturdays per month from 9am - 3pm (Call for exact days)	• Oceanside	(760) 439-2824	Yes
Poway	12325Crowthwaite Circle, Poway (Poway Materials Handling Yard)	Saturdays - 9am to 3pm	• Carlsbad • Poway • Del Mar • Encinitas • Escondido • San Marcos • Solana Beach • Vista	(800) 714-1195	No
Ramona	324 Maple Street Ramona 92065 (Ramona Disposal Services Tran Station)	Saturdays - 9am to 3pm	Unincorporated Areas Only	877-R-1-EARTH (877-713-2784)	No
San Diego	5161 Convoy Street, San Diego (Entrance to Miramar Landfill)	Saturdays - 9am to 3pm	• City of SD • County Uninc. Areas	858-694-7000 (City)	Yes
Vista	1145 East Taylor Street, Vista	Saturdays - 9am to 3pm	• Carlsbad • Poway • Del Mar • Encinitas • Escondido • San Marcos • Solana Beach • Vista	(800)714-1195	No

I hate it when people throw their used fluorescent lamps in my trash. These lamps contain mercury which is bad for all of us when released into the environment. So do me a favor and recycle your fluorescents!

- Oscar

The Facts About Fluorescent Lights



Fluorescent lights are energy efficient and help reduce greenhouse gases that contribute to global climate change. These lights are able to accomplish this because they contain small amounts of mercury.

Mercury is a natural element that has many uses. However, mercury is a powerful neurotoxin and causes a variety of adverse health effects due to exposure. Those who are at most risk from mercury exposure are pregnant women and developing children.

The leading consensus from environmental organizations and government is that although fluorescents should be handled with care and managed properly to avoid breakage, they are still recommended for business and residential use due to their many benefits.

That being said, people should handle these products with care and common sense - much like you would when driving to avoid crashing your car. By taking simple steps to prevent breaking fluorescent lights, consumers can avoid exposure to mercury. Due to the possibility of mercury vapor being retained in carpets, you may want to consider using and handling fluorescent lights only in areas above hard flooring as well as areas with lamps that are not easily knocked over by children or animals.

The following guidelines are based on recommendations from the U.S. EPA and the recent study conducted by the state of Maine for cleaning up after a CFL or fluorescent tube breaks. Please note that in California, these lights are not allowed in the trash and must be managed as Universal Wastes. It should also be mentioned that if you break a CFL that no longer works or has been used for a while, as opposed to a new CFL, the amount of mercury vapor released during a break is likely to be significantly less. This is because much of the mercury will be bound to the glass rather than released as vapor.



**Save the environment
while you're saving
energy! Recycle your
fluorescents!**

- Oscar

What to do When a Fluorescent Bulb Breaks

Open all doors and windows to ventilate the area for at least 15 minutes.

Turn off your AC/Fan/Heater so as not to circulate any mercury vapor

Young children and pregnant women should leave the area during cleanup.

Wear appropriate personal protective equipment, such as a dust mask and gloves to keep bulb dust and glass from being inhaled or contacting your skin.

Carefully remove the larger pieces and place them in a secure closed container.

Next, begin collecting the smaller pieces and dust. It is recommended that you use two stiff pieces of paper such as index cards or one of the many commercial mercury spill kits available.

Put all material into a sealed container. Pat the area with the sticky side of duct, packing or masking tape. Wipe the area with a damp cloth.

Put all waste and materials used to clean up the bulb in a secure closed container and label it "Universal Waste - broken lamp". Take the container for recycling to the household hazardous waste facility (HHW) nearest you.

If the bulb breaks on carpet, the State of Maine's report suggests removing the area of carpet that has been contaminated as a precaution. If this is not feasible, it is recommended that you ventilate the area for several hours as well as during the process of vacuuming because vacuuming can circulate the vapor. If you vacuum, make sure to dispose of the bag along with the broken CFL at your local HHW. You should also ventilate the room during the next few times you vacuum the area.

Consider other Household Hazardous or Universal Wastes that you may have in your home such as pesticides, paint, oil, batteries, non-empty aerosol cans, and electronic devices that you can take to the HHW at the same time as the broken CFL.

