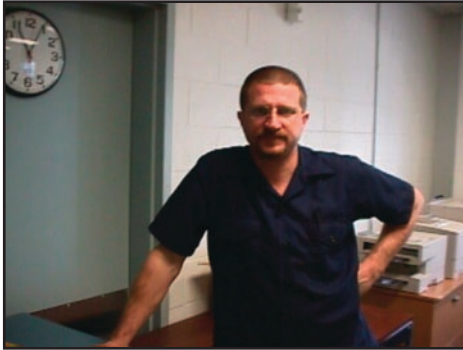


During the Big Snow Storm of 2003



U.S. Coast Guard Averts Environmental Clean up with Biobased Hydraulic Fluid Use



Jim Smith saves clean up time and money because he uses biobased hydraulic fluids at the U.S. Coast Guard's Maintenance Department at The Group Air Station in Atlantic City, N.J.

“It’s interesting what makes users “real believers” in biobased products. James H. Smith (Jim), who works in the U.S. Coast Guard’s Maintenance Department at The Group Air Station in Atlantic City, N.J., has been interested in biobased products for several years, but an experience in the

heavy snow of President’s Day weekend 2003 that hit much of the East Coast made him passionate on the subject.

“Our job is to take care of the helicopter tarmacs and the parking lots and sidewalks around the Coast Guard facilities here at the Air Station. While one of our small tractors was clearing a parking lot of snow, a hydraulic hose frayed and sprayed its fluid with a pinstripe over the top of a four-foot high snowdrift along a swath for 10 or 12 feet. Because it was a biobased fluid, all we had to do is fix the hose and keep on moving snow,” explains Smith.

“If it had been a petroleum-based fluid, we would have been required to immediately remove the contaminated snow—and there is a lot of it when the snow is four feet deep and you have to take out 10 or 12 feet—haul it into a building where it could be melted and the contaminants collected. All of that being time and money spent on something other than snow removal,” states Jim.

But with the biobased product, nothing had to be done. The spill, being biobased and relatively small in volume, would simply melt away with the thaw and be safely absorbed into the environment.

“I’ve always been a believer in biobased products but this small example just shows you how convenient and time saving they can be, too,” Smith says.

As year-round groundskeepers, the Coast Guard Maintenance Department uses a variety of biobased products in a number of tools including mowers, trimmers, chain saws, air compressors and even, a 400 hz 4-cylinder diesel aircraft ground power unit, used to power aircraft during diagnostic testing and repair.

“Our Hazardous Waste Safety Officer Jeff Schmidt encourages us to find and use biobased products whenever we can,” says Smith. Among the products used there are 2-cycle engine oil, bar and chain oil, penetrating lubricant and even 10W30 oil for the big aircraft power unit. All of these uses are part of the facility’s efforts to comply with Executive Order 13101, Greening of the Government Through Waste Prevention, Recycling and Federal Acquisition, issued in 1998.



photo credit: Renewable Lubricants, Inc. Hartsville, Ohio

Biobased products can perform a variety of jobs, including hydraulic fluids that helped reduce clean up at U.S. Coast Guard facilities. More than 40 different categories of American-made, natural, renewable biobased products are offered today.

FACT FILE

For more information on the use of biobased products at The GroupAir Station, contact the Coast Guard's Jim Smith at 609-677-2197 or at JHSmith@gruasatlcty.uscg.mil

America's farmers are just beginning to tap agriculture's potential as a source for natural, renewable biobased products that offer benefits to worker health, the environment, America's economy and energy security. To learn more about the many biobased products made from soybeans like the ones used by the U.S. Coast Guard, go to the Biobased Products Catalog at www.unitedsoybean.org

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