

Environmental Standard Operating Procedure

Originating Office: Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Office	Revision: N/A	Prepared By: NREA Subject Matter Expert (SME)	Approved By: Patrick Mills <i>Patrick Mills</i>
File Name: MRE-ESOP	Effective Date: 1 October 2014	Document Owner: NREA	

Title: Meals Ready to Eat (MRE)

1.0 PURPOSE

The purpose of this Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) is to provide environmental guidelines for proper handling and disposal of the MRE flameless ration heater.

2.0 APPLICATION

This guidance applies to those individuals who are use MRE's aboard Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center (MCAGCC) Twentynine Palms.

3.0 REFERENCES

- MCO P5090.2A change 3
- Hazardous Waste Operations Manual, MCAGCC
- Combat Center Order (CCO) 5090.5C, Integrated Contingency and Operations Plans (ICOP) for MCAGCC

4.0 PROCEDURE

4.1 Discussion:

MRE, Flameless Ration Heaters that have not been properly activated must be disposed of as hazardous waste. Disposing of an un-activated MRE heater in a solid waste container is against the law. Un- activated MRE heaters pose a potential fire hazard if they become wet when interned at a landfill site. MRE heaters must be disposed of in approved solid waste containers aboard the installation after they have been properly activated.

4.2 Operational Controls:

The following procedures apply for HW Transportation:

1. Ensure Safety Data Sheets (SDSs) are readily available and current.
2. Individual user will only use and activate the MRE heater for its intended purpose and will discard the heater properly after activation.
3. Ensure that un-activated MRE heaters are stored and disposed of as unused hazardous waste (HW).
4. Separate and properly label each storage containers with the HW they store.

5. Do not store MRE heaters with or near any liquids. MRE heaters are a water-reactive hazardous material.
6. Do not place MRE heaters near an open flame. Vapors released from activated heaters contain hydrogen, a flammable gas.
7. Only activate MRE heaters in a well-ventilated area. Vapors released from activated MRE heaters can disperse oxygen.
8. Ensure a compatible fire extinguisher is readily available.
9. Ensure turnover folder information is kept for this Standard Operating Procedure.
10. If there are any specific situations or other concerns not addressed by this procedure, contact MCAGCC Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs (NREA) office.

4.3 Documentation and Record Keeping:

The following records must be maintained when storing hazardous materials:

1. MSDS/SDS for all hazardous material being stored.
2. Inspection and training records.

4.4 Training:

All affected personnel must be trained in this Standard Operating Procedure and the following:

1. Hazard Communication training.
2. General Environmental Awareness training.

4.5 Emergency Preparedness and Response Procedures:

Refer to Combat Center Order (CCO) 5090.5C, Integrated Contingency and Operations Plans (ICOP) for MCAGCC.

4.6 Inspection and Corrective Action:

The Environmental Compliance Coordinator (ECC) shall designate personnel to perform inspections. The ECC shall ensure deficiencies noted during the inspections are corrected immediately. Actions taken to correct each deficiency shall be recorded on the inspection sheet.

MRE – Inspection Checklist

Date:	Time:
Installation:	Work Center:
Inspector's Name:	Signature:

Inspection Items	Yes	No	Comments
1. Are SDS's for MRE Heaters readily available and current?			
2. Are MRE heaters being properly activated before being disposed of as solid waste?			
3. If MRE heaters are not activated, are they being properly disposed of as hazardous waste?			
4. Are all hazardous waste requirements being properly followed as they pertain to MRE heaters?			
5. Are training and inspection records maintained and available for inspection?			
6. Is a compatible fire extinguisher readily available?			

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

CORRECTIVE ACTION TAKEN:

Environmental Compliance Coordinator

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____