

Environmental Standard Operating Procedure (ESOP)	
Meals Ready to Eat (MRE) Heaters	
Environmental Affairs (EA): Hazardous Waste Management Branch (HWMB) (760) 830-7244	Revised 1 October 2024

Subject: MEALS READY TO EAT (MRE) HEATERS

References: (a) Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center's (MCAGCC's) Hazardous Waste Operations Manual
(b) Integrated Contingency and Operations Plan

1. Purpose. This document provides environmental protection guidelines for proper handling and disposal of the MRE flameless ration heater.
2. Application. This guidance applies to those individuals who are using MRE's aboard the Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command (MAGTFTC), Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center (MCAGCC) Twentynine Palms. For further references to MAGTFTC, MCAGCC in this document, the term "installation" will be used.
3. Procedures. MRE heaters that have not been properly activated must be disposed of as hazardous waste.
4. Operational Controls. The following controls apply:
 - a. Individual user will only use and activate the MRE heater for its intended purpose and will properly discard the used heater as solid waste after activation.
 - b. MRE heaters should not be stored near an open flame or wet location. Vapors released from activated heaters contain hydrogen and other flammable gases.
 - c. MRE heaters should only be activated in a well-ventilated area.
 - d. For any MRE heaters not activated (used), users should contact HWMB for storage and disposal requirements via phone at (760) 830-7244.
 - e. If there are any specific situations or other concerns not addressed by this procedure, users should contact the MCAGCC Environmental Affairs office, Hazardous Waste Management Branch, Building 2095, Rifle Range Road, (760) 830-7244/5403.
5. Documentation and Record Keeping. There is no required record keeping for storing MRE heaters.
6. Training. All affected personnel must be trained in this document and the following:
 - General Environmental Awareness training

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7. Emergency Preparedness and Response Procedures. Notify the fire department when there is a fire. The Combat Center Fire Department can be reached at 911 (landline) or via cellphone at 760-830-3333/3334.
8. Inspection and Corrective Action. The Environmental Compliance Coordinator (ECC) will confirm unit adherence to this ESOP. The ECC will confirm that unit personnel are trained in this ESOP and maintain appropriate documentation in accordance with this ESOP.