



## U. S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board RECOMMENDATIONS STATUS CHANGE SUMMARY

<b>Report:</b>	Donaldson Enterprises, Inc. (DEI) Fatal Fireworks Disassembly Explosion and Fire
<b>Recommendation Number:</b>	2011-06-I-HI-R7
<b>Date Issued:</b>	January 17, 2013
<b>Recipient:</b>	National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)
<b>New Status:</b>	Open – Acceptable Response or Alternative Response
<b>Date of Status Change:</b>	<b>April 24, 2017</b>

### Recommendation Text:

*Develop a new standard, or incorporate within an existing standard, best practices for the safe disposal of waste fireworks that are consistent with environmental requirements.*

*At a minimum this guidance or standard should:*

- Discourage the disassembly of waste fireworks as a step in the disposal process;*
- Minimize the accumulation of waste explosive materials, and encourage practices that reduce, recycle, reuse, or repurpose fireworks; and*
- Incorporate input from ATF, EPA, and other agencies, experts, and available resources on fireworks disposal methodologies.*

### Board Status Change Decision:

#### A. Rationale for Recommendation

On April 8, 2011, an explosion and fire that occurred at Waikele Self Storage located in Waipahu, Hawaii. At this facility, a leased magazine was being used by Donaldson Enterprises, Inc. (DEI) for seized fireworks storage and disposal-related activities. As a result of the explosion and fire, five DEI personnel inside the magazine were fatally injured and a sixth sustained minor injuries.

As a part of its investigation, the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (CSB) reviewed the National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) standards related to explosives and fireworks (e.g., 495, 1123 and 1124) and determined that there were no standards or guidance for the safe disposal of fireworks.

Based on the findings of the investigation, the Board voted to issue two recommendations to the NFPA related to disposal of fireworks: This status change summary only addresses the first recommendation, namely: 2011-06-I-HI-R7.

## B. Response to the Recommendation

- In May of 2015, research published by the Fire Protection Research Foundation (FPRF)<sup>1</sup>, determined that pyrotechnic waste, including confiscated, illegal fireworks and unspent fireworks or duds, is a hazardous waste which falls within the scope of NFPA 400, the *Hazardous Materials Code*.
- On December 1, 2016, the NFPA Standards Council approved the start-up roster for a new Technical Committee on Hazardous Waste. This Committee has the primary responsibility for documents on safeguarding against the fire and explosion hazards associated with the treatment, storage, disposal, generation, and transportation of hazardous waste. The Technical Committee on Hazardous Waste will hold its first meeting in 2017 and begin developing its scope and a draft document. The draft when completed will be submitted to the NFPA Standards Council for approval. Once this approval has been obtained, first and second drafts will be developed from public input and comments. This process generally takes about two years before a final document is ready for issuance and publication.

## C. Board Analysis and Decision

Based on the above two actions taken by the NFPA, the Board voted to change the status of CSB Recommendation No. 2011-06-I-HI-R7 to **“Open – Acceptable Response or Alternative Response.”**

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<sup>1</sup> The Fire Protection Research Foundation, a research affiliate of NFPA; is an independent nonprofit whose mission is to plan, manage and communicate research in support of the association.