

Cape Cod NS Switches to Green Janitorial Products

Cape Cod National Seashore is taking one more green step in its operations - a complete switch over to a green system of janitorial products. Cape Cod hired (at no cost to the park) the Rochester Midland Corporation to assess the park's entire maintenance program for ways to reduce impacts on health of park employees, park visitors and on the environment.

Ben Pearson, Chief of Maintenance, brought in Bob Proulx of Rochester Midland Corporation, to inventory every single chemical the park uses in its janitorial and cleaning operation. The staff found over 20 chemicals that are bad for human and environmental health and will remove all of these and dispose of them properly. The kinds of things that they found included: toxic products, liquefied petroleum gas in aerosol cans, hazardous products and highly flammable or corrosive products.

After the inventory, Bob identified alternative cleaning products and new procedures that will use fewer products and will be more effective in getting the job done. These chemicals are "environmentally preferable" in that they meet environmental standards and have much less impact on health and environment than conventional products. In fact, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts includes the Rochester Midland in its list of approved vendors of environmentally preferable products.

Once the chemicals are in place in specially designed stainless steel dispensing unit systems, the staff will be taught by Bob, and learn ways to efficiently clean that will reduce time spent and chemicals used. They will also learn proper ways to clean up tricky jobs, like iron stains, blood, vomit, etc.

Soon after the new year, the park will have a "green change-over" day--with news coverage--where all the toxic chemicals are removed and properly disposed.

In addition, to help the public understand what the park is doing, the park staff will develop educational signs posted in the rest rooms and other visitor contact places. The park will also be working with Rochester Midland in trying new and better green products as they are developed. With the stainless steel dispensers and support from Rochester Midland in their practice of not selling you items that you do not need, Cape Cod NS feels that it will have a good sustainable product for many years to come.

For more information on Cape Cod NS environmental operations, call Ben Pearson, Chief of Maintenance, 508-349-3785 x232.

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