



# Recycle lead-acid batteries

## A Plastics Primer

Not all plastics are recyclable at this time. Only plastics with a 1 (PETE) or a 2 (HDPE) are required to be recycled. (The codes are usually on the bottoms of the containers.) There is only a limited market for the other grades of plastics. Currently, these do not have to be recycled by law.

In addition to the Dunn transfer site, many recyclers will also take certain kinds of plastics (see table on Page 4A). Some will pay for it, but the price is usually very low. Be sure to call ahead, if you are seeking cash for your plastic.

### Plastics codes defined

#### PETE — polyethylene terephthalate

 *common forms*—soft drink bottles, boil-in-bags  
*recycled into*—fiberfill, carpet backing, belts

*problems*—high-level pollutants inherent in manufacturing process  
—high probability of releasing noxious compounds during combustion

#### HDPE — high-density polyethylene

 *common forms*—milk bottles, household soap bottles  
—dark base of soda bottles

—translucent plastic cups  
*recycled into*—"plastic wood", piping, drain tiles  
*problems*—not as problematic as some other plastics, especially if not deeply colored—this holds true for manufacturing and combustion

#### PVC — polyvinyl chloride

 *common forms*—thick transparent containers as in salad oil containers  
—thick film for packaging meat

*recycled into*—construction and auto industry plastics on a limited basis  
*problems*—high levels of pollutants inherent in manufacturing process  
—high probability of releasing noxious compounds during combustion

#### LDPE — low-density polyethylene

 *common forms*—food packaging, shrink wrap, carry-out bags, heavy-duty bags  
*recycled into*—landscape timbers on a limited basis

*problems*—same as HDPE but also has a limited recycling market

#### PP — polypropylene

 *common forms*—butter and margarine tubs, yogurt containers, screw-on caps and lids, drinking straws  
*recycled into*—mixed with PETE and HDPE for some of the products listed above on a limited basis  
*problems*—high level of pollutants in manufacturing process  
—limited recycling market

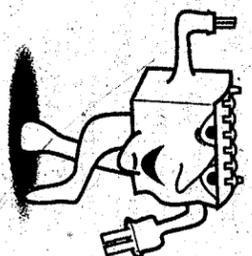
#### Polystyrene foam — "styrofoam"

 *common forms*—cups, "clamshells" for burgers  
*recycled into*—foam boards on a limited basis  
*problems*—manufacturing problems, creating ozone-depleting gases—this is being worked on by the industry  
—limited recycling market

Recycling an old battery is easy as long as you handle it carefully — you don't want to spill the sulfuric acid that's in them.

Used vehicle batteries are hazardous because they contain highly corrosive sulfuric acid, lead and other toxic metals. When burned, these materials pollute the air. When thrown into a roadside ditch or dumped in a landfill, batteries can crack and deteriorate, leaking lead-contaminated sulfuric acid into the soil. Sulfuric acid is considered a hazardous waste, and it can leach into surface water and groundwater, polluting lakes, streams and drinking water supplies.

A standard automotive battery contains 18 pounds of lead and there are about 3.7 million of them in cars today. So, going by 1990 market prices, that's 33,249 tons, or \$23 million worth of lead. All of them can be recycled and used to make new batteries, cable coverings, light bulbs, electronic equipment, radiation shielding and other useful products.



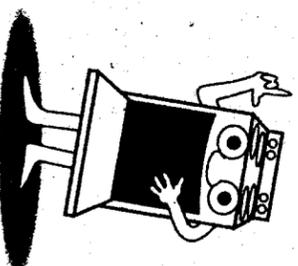
### Handling Your Battery Safely

- If you remove the battery from your car, boat, tractor or other vehicle yourself, be careful. Lead-acid batteries contain explosive hydrogen, in addition to sulfuric acid.
- To avoid explosions and acid burns, keep open flames away from the battery and don't smoke near it.
- Wear safety glasses or goggles when working with batteries.
- Take care when using metal tools. You might accidentally make a direct connection and create a dangerous spark.
- If you drop a battery, use baking soda or lime to neutralize any spilled acid. Use gloves and avoid contact with skin, eyes and clothing.
- When taking a battery to a retailer, keep it right side up and carry it in a wooden box or leak-proof container.
- If you don't plan to deliver the battery right away, place it somewhere safe, away from children and pets.
- Don't store batteries outside in frigid weather. Frozen batteries can crack and leak sulfuric acid.

## What's in an appliance?

Most major appliances, like stoves, refrigerators, and microwave ovens are made primarily of high-quality steel, and they must be recycled. They also may contain glass, plastic, rubber, copper, aluminum and chemicals such as polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) or chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs).

Some refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, washers, dryers and stoves manufactured before 1979 contain PCBs. These chemicals were used in capacitors, which store the electrical charge needed to start or run an appliance. When an appliance is compacted, burned, or dumped in a landfill, PCBs, which are a health risk to wildlife and humans, can pollute the air, seep into lakes, rivers and wetlands or enter underground drinking water supplies.



Some of the sulfuric acid in batteries can be reused in new batteries or in fertilizer, but most of it is neutralized for safe disposal. Battery casings are recycled into new casings, wastebaskets and other plastic products.

Studies show that about 8.5 million, or up to 10 percent of all lead-acid batteries bought in the U.S. are not being recycled. If they're not being thrown away or recycled, where are they? According to the Battery Council International, they are accumulating in people's garages and basements: 20 percent of American cars are storing two or more old batteries.

If you have a "used battery collection" lying around, try recycling. Those batteries will do a lot more good being recycled than sitting in your garage, and you'll be ridding your home of a hazard.

Dry cell, alkaline and other household batteries are also hazardous. They contain mercury, cadmium, nickel and other potentially toxic chemicals. The Wisconsin Legislature is analyzing how the recycling law could provide more convenient statewide access to household-battery recycling facilities. Currently, these batteries are considered garbage and should be disposed of in the trash.

also contain CFCs, a gaseous refrigerant known by the trade name Freon. When released from smashed or burned appliances, CFCs harm the earth's protective ozone layer, which shields us from ultraviolet rays that can cause skin cancer and other health problems.

If you do decide to haul your appliance, be sure to tie it down tightly to keep it from falling over. A tumble could break the coolant line or capacitor and release CFCs or PCBs into the atmosphere, and a secure load protects your vehicle.

If you're buying a new appliance, ask if the delivery team will take away the old one. Some stores will pick up your old unit and send it on for recycling or repair and resale. Charges of \$10 or more are not uncommon.

Thrift stores and charity organizations will take working used appliances for repair and resale. Appliances in good shape can be repaired and resold for an average of \$115 each. Some organizations have home pickup, so call and ask. Be ready to describe the age, type and condition of your appliance.

Refrigerators, freezers and air conditioners



# Grass clippings: Good as gold for your lawn

## Why bag your grass clippings?

Consider for a moment *not* bagging your grass. Gone are the hassles of stopping every few minutes to empty the mower bag, raking, wrestling with expensive trash bags. Instead, by not bagging your grass, your clippings are working their way back into the soil and playing a very important role.

Clippings contain the nutrients your lawn needs to grow. Every bag of grass clippings contains up to 1/4 pound of usable organic nitrogen. You can reduce your fertilization costs by recycling lawn clippings back into the lawn.

You may say that not bagging your grass is unhealthy for your lawn ... it will cause excessive thatch build-up and kill your lawn. The fact is, thatch is made up of grass roots, dead leaf sheaths, and rhizomes, which decompose slowly, not the grass leaves that are cut when you mow. Grass clippings decompose rapidly, and can help make your lawn more vigorous and durable.

## Recycle your fertilizer

Successfully recycling grass clippings back to your lawn requires only the kind of attention all lawns should have on a regular basis. Mow when your grass is dry and 3 to 4" tall. Never

**Grass clipping benefits**  
According to turf experts, grass clippings:  
● reduce water evaporation from the lawn,  
● reduce lawn wear by creating a cushioning layer, and  
● facilitate better growth by providing nutrients and keeping the soil temperature cooler.

cut it shorter than 2 to 2½" in height. This height will allow your lawn to have a larger and deeper root system — making a stronger defense against weeds and droughts.

Use a sharp mower blade (a mulching mower if you have one). A sharp blade and frequent mowing will mean finer clippings that will decompose quickly. (If you have trouble using your mower without the bagger, call your hardware store or dealer for assistance.)

Avoid overfertilizing your lawn. If it becomes too dense with growth, your clippings won't reach the soil to decompose.

Remove excessive thatch before leaving your clippings on the lawn. Although a ½" of thatch is no problem, a thick layer will keep clippings

from reaching the soil.

Limit the use of lawn chemicals. Save money and allow soil organisms to return nutrients to the soil by first correctly diagnosing lawn problems and then applying corrective measures only when needed.

## Compost your clippings

You may choose to collect your clippings every third time you mow ... or every other time. If you want to collect your clippings occasionally, recycle them as a mulch in the garden or in planting beds. Mulching adds nutrients to soil, reduces weed problems, lowers the soil temperature and increases the moisture. Mulch also helps maintain good soil structure and minimizes erosion by protecting the soil surface.

However, avoid mulching with grass that's been recently treated with herbicides that can harm your plants. Chemically treated clippings should be left on the lawn or in your compost bin, where herbicides will breakdown in about six weeks.

If you can't use grass clippings in your own yard, find a neighbor who can ... or take them to either the town compost pile at the transfer site or the county compost pile on Libby Rd. at Lake Farm Park.

## Used oil is black gold

Wisconsin do-it-yourself auto mechanics have the opportunity to recycle an estimated 3.5 to 4.5 million gallons of used motor oil each year. By doing so, they could protect the environment, save energy and help decrease dependence on foreign oil.

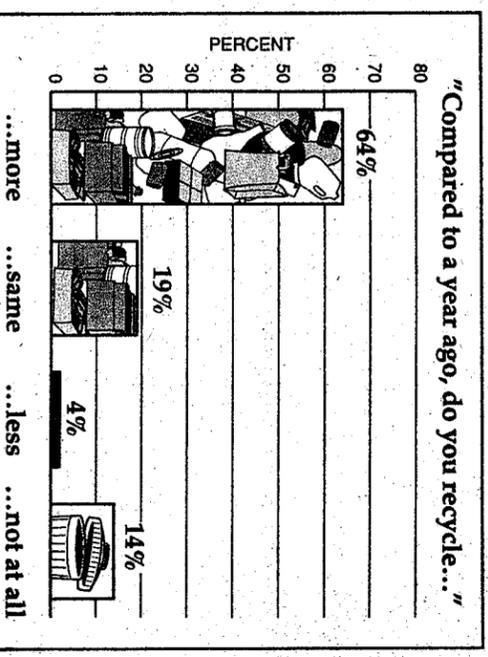
If drained onto a city street or tossed down a storm sewer, oil will end up in a lake, stream or wetland. Just five quarts creates an oily film that covers two and a half acres of surface water — that's the equivalent of two football fields. An oily surface can block entry into the water of airborne oxygen and sunlight needed to support fish and other aquatic life. Dissolved oxygen supplies in the water are depleted as the oil decomposes.

Nationwide, businesses, industries and car owners dump 260 million gallons of used oil each year. That's 24 times the amount of oil spilled off Alaska's coast by the Exxon Valdez oil tanker in 1989. Do-it-yourselfers are responsible for 45 percent of that waste. When motor oil is recycled, it can be used as a heating fuel, as a fuel at asphalt batch plants, lime kilns or in industrial furnaces.

A major refinery in East Chicago removes contaminants from up to 90 million gallons of oil each year and produces a motor oil that is as good as that which can be made out of crude oil. Refining can recycle oil again and again, compounding the savings.

## How to recycle used oil

- **DO use a dirt-free pan** that can hold as many quarts as your car's crankcase and that has *not* been used for paint, cleaning solvents, antifreeze or anything besides motor oil.
- **DO drain the old oil filter** by punching a hole in the top and inverting it over your drain pan. Dispose of the old filter by putting some paper towels over the hole. Put the old filter and paper towels in the box the new filter came in and put the box in the trash.
- **DON'T put used oil in garbage bound for a landfill.** The contamination in used oil can leak into groundwater or collect in the landfill drainage system where it must be pumped out and hauled to a sewage treatment plant. Running used oil through a landfill is an expensive process that wastes a valuable resource, could cause pollution and accomplishes nothing.
- **DON'T pour used oil down a drain.** If the oil is poured down a drain that leads to a septic system, it can hinder or stop the biological processes that make the septic system work. If the drain leads to a wastewater treatment plant, the oil could reduce plant efficiency, causing more contaminants to flow out of the plant's discharge pipes and into a nearby lake or stream. At its worst, oil clogs plant machinery and may cause an unscheduled shutdown. Repairs are an expensive and avoidable use of taxpayer dollars.
- **DON'T pour used oil into a storm sewer.** Storm sewers lead directly to lakes, streams and wetlands where oil spoils habitat for fish and wildlife and interferes with swimming, boating and other recreation. Pouring oil down a storm sewer is illegal.
- **DON'T toss used oil on the driveway, street or ground.** Such practices lead to reduced soil productivity and, through percolation and runoff, contaminate lakes, streams, wetlands and groundwater.
- **DON'T spread oil to suppress dust or kill weeds.** These practices harm land and water resources.
- **DON'T dispose of oil in lakes, streams or wetlands.** It's illegal and harmful to fish, wildlife and outdoor recreation.
- **DON'T burn oil outdoors.** Burning oil in a backyard barrel can result in toxic smoke that contaminates the air you and others breathe.
- **DON'T mix oil with other things.** Just a small amount of something else can cause the contents of an entire 200-gallon collection tank to be classified as a hazardous waste that has to be delivered to a special, expensive hazardous waste recycling or disposal facility. Do not add antifreeze, solvents or anything else to oil bound for recycling.





## Do it right at the Dunn Transfer Site

Continued from front page

**Brush**—only brush and limbs for the burn pile. We cannot take stumps or lumber, but the county's Rodefild Landfill will take stumps.

**Tires**—we charge \$3 each and they must be removed from the rim. We do not take tractor or other oversize or balloon tires. Tires can also be taken to the Rodefild Landfill for \$4.25 per 100 pounds.

**Appliances**—Neither the town nor Rodefild Landfill take appliances, but several private recyclers do, and they are willing to pick them up for a small fee. Check the table on this page for other appliance recyclers.

Materials Banned from Landfills in Dane County Items currently banned:	
Brush	Grass
Leaves	Barrels and Drums
Newspaper	Hazardous Waste
Infectious Waste	Tires
Corrugated Cardboard	Glass Containers
Metal Containers	HDPE Plastic Containers
Lead-Acid Batteries	PETE Plastic Containers
Used Oil	Major Appliances
As of January 1, 1993: Yard Waste (beyond grass, leaves, and brush)	
As of January 1, 1995: Office Paper Magazines Plastic Containers Polystyrene Foam Packaging	

	Hours	Aluminum	Other metals	Appliances	Glass	Newspapers	Mixed paper	Corrugated cardboard	HDPE & PETE plastics	Other plastics	Motor oil	Batteries	Tires	Grass, leaves, etc.	Stumps	Limbs	Clean wood
Dunn Transfer Site CTH B	Wed: 8am-4pm Apr-Nov Sat: 8am-4pm All Year	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓1		✓	✓2	✓		✓	✓
Rodefild Landfill Hwy 18 McFarland 838-9555	M-F 7am-3pm Sat: 8am-11am												✓				✓
Dane County compost site Lake Farm Park Libby Rd.	M-W-F -S 7am-3:30pm Tu-Th 7am-10:30am													✓			
Recycle Worlds 2701 Packers Ave. Madison, WI 53704 244-5451	M-F 9am-5pm Sat: 8am-4pm	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓			✓					
Madison Recycling Center 2200 Fish Hatchery Rd. Madison, WI 53713 251-2115	M-F 7:30am-5pm Sat: 8am-Noon	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓3	✓	✓			✓					
Ben Heffitz, Inc. 1802Mw. Park Street Madison, WI 53713 255-0960.	M-F 7am-4:30pm Sat. Closed Sun. 7am-Noon		✓		✓4							✓					✓
Century Acres 3705 Hoepker Road Madison, WI 53704 241-3156	Call																✓
Excel Plastics 850 Clover Lane Oregon, WI 53575 835-9812	M-F 8am-5pm Call first							✓5	✓6								
J&S Recycling and Surplus 214 N. Main Street Deerfield, WI 53531 764-5358	After May 1st Mon&Wed 9am-1pm 4pm-6pm Sat. All Day	✓	✓	✓7	✓			✓									
M&J Recycling Cottage Grove 222-6201	M-Sat 7am-5:30pm		✓	✓8													
Midwest Steel Co. 4400 Sycamore Ave. Madison, WI 53714 241-1571	M-F 7:30am-3:30pm Sat: 7:30-Noon	✓	✓	✓9	✓	✓		✓				✓					
Reynolds Aluminum Recycling 3029 Milwaukee Street Madison, WI 53714 241-5789	Stoughton at Kohl's Wed. & Sat. 9am-1pm Milwaukee Street M-F 8am-5:30pm S-S 8:30am-3:30pm	✓															
Severson Scrap Metals 1707 Moorland Road Madison, WI 53711 222-4604	M-Sat: 7:30am-4:30pm	✓	✓	✓10								✓					
The Can Man 7432 Schneider Road Middleton, WI 53562 831-2775	Pick up only	✓11	✓														
Larry's Used Furniture 2898 S. Syene Rd. Fitchburg 271-8162	4-8pm weekdays 10am-6pm weekends Call ahead	✓	✓	✓12	✓							✓					

- 1 Collecting for recycling, but still looking for a buyer. Place in separate bin.
- 2 Charge of \$3 per tire.
- 3 Only high-grade computer and typing paper.
- 4 Capacitor must be removed from appliances.
- 5 No PETE.
- 6 Do not currently accept, but are investigating and expect to reach a decision this summer.

- 7 \$10 includes picking up.
- 8 \$19 to pick up.
- 9 No microwave ovens.
- 10 \$5 charge if brought in, will pick up for \$25.
- 11 Quantities of 50 pounds or more picked up.
- 12 Free. No TVs, no microwaves.

# Hook Lake Wildlife Area gains acreage

*DNR is seeking volunteers to restore prairie*

The Hook Lake Wildlife and Natural Area saw tremendous growth last year with the addition of 472 acres purchased from Jack McManus by the Department of Natural Resources, says Doris Rusch, DNR Southern District Wildlife Manager.

This spring and summer, the DNR will begin restoration to pre-European-settlement condition some of these recently purchased lands and will be seeking volunteers to assist with the plantings.

Before European settlers came to our area, the landscape of southern Dane County was prairie, oak savanna and open oak woodland. Survey records from 1836 show that the area around Hook Lake had an average of 10 to 45 oak trees per acre, mostly burr oak, with many acres not having any trees at all. In present times, fire played a significant role in maintaining this landscape. The periodic removal

of virtually all trees by severe fires resulted in prairie. On deeper soils, where there was some protection, only scattered clumps of oak or individual oaks survived the fires, creating the oak savanna. And on more sheltered locations, where there was greater fire protection, numerous oaks survived, leaving an open oak woodland.

Doris Rusch and the Department of Natural Resources are working to restore the presentment vegetation to these newly acquired lands. A \$15,000 grant from the Small Business Association for the purchase and planting of oak trees on previously cultivated fields was recently received, Rusch said. "The tree grant must be matched by funds to purchase and plant companion cover — in this case, prairie and savanna grasses and forbs. We have sought and found matching funds from the Dane County

Chapter of Pheasants Forever and the Dane County Land Conservation Committee and are now purchasing about 26 different prairie flowers." She said plants such as yellow coneflower, rattlesnake master, lead plant, prairie dock, compass plant, rosinwood, tick trefoil, foxglove, wild quinine, showy sunflower and stiff goldenrod, to mention just a few, are among those that will be planted.

Rusch said the DNR hopes to plant about 30 acres per year in prairie or savanna. This spring, they will begin on the 30+ acres of bean fields on the former McManus property. Rusch said the DNR is interested in finding volunteers to assist in the planting. "We have yet to work out the exact details of the planting — broadcast, no-till drill or hand cast—but we'd like to hear from folks who may be interested in planting, transplanting or steward-

ing the prairie plants."

In addition to planting, Rusch says scheduled prairie burns will start this April with the east side of the access road to the McManus law offices. "The fire should reduce undesirable woody species in the oak woodlands, such as honeysuckle, as well as invading woody species in the grassland fields. And the fire will also eliminate the woody competitors within the fields to be seeded to prairie." She said that in late May and June the prairie fields will be mowed to reduce the early-growing weedy competitors to the prairie plants.

If you are interested in volunteering to help restore this area to prairie this spring, contact Doris Rusch, Area Wildlife Manager, 3070 Fish Hatchery Rd., Fitchburg, WI 53713, or call at 273-5943.

## On the road with Jim

*By Jim Manson, Highway Foreman*

### *Potholes*

Although this winter wasn't bad for snow and cold weather, it did play some havoc with the road surfaces because the ground kept thawing. The moisture gets down into the road surface, expands, and heaves it and makes potholes. So in effect we had many spring thaws this year.

We've been busy fixing potholes all winter and spring. Sometimes we've fixed the same pothole many times, because when the weather is cold you can't get them dried out enough for the patch to stay in the hole. You are back a couple of days later filling them again.

### *Trash*

There is a lot more scattered trash along our roadsides this

year. We are getting *truckloads* in spots. Last fall we had a lot of leaves and grass clippings and we've gotten several piles of brush where there aren't any trees around for them to have come from.

Brush and other stuff dumped like this can restrict water flow in the spring. But, the biggest problem with this is the time we waste on it. We go out almost daily to check on something and we end up stopping to pick up several bags full.

### *Roads Repairs*

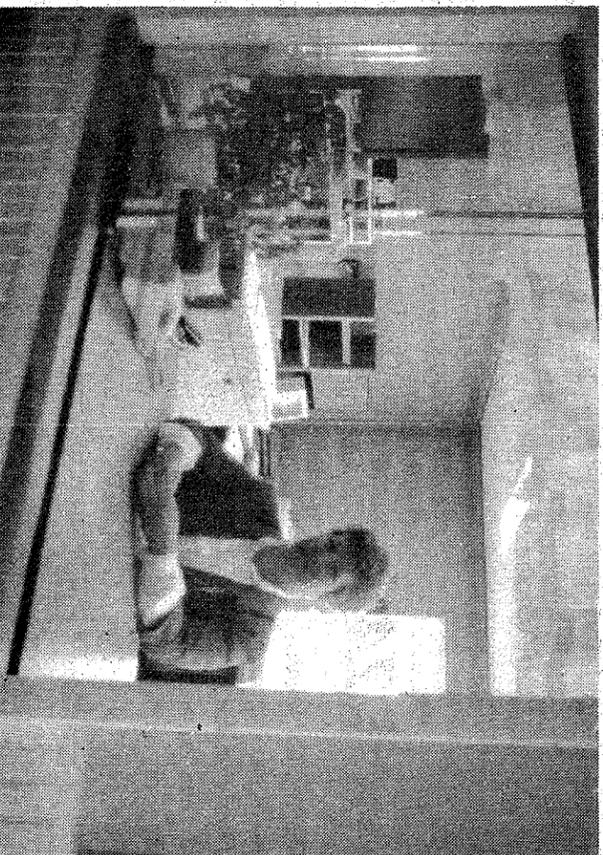
We are going to be grinding up, re-blacktopping and putting new shoulders on Morris Park Road, High Street and North Court, off of High Street. All are adjacent to Spartan Hills sub-

division. We are hoping to seal-coat everything in Spartan Hills and part of Tower Road. We are planning to do Crescent Drive, about two-thirds of Schneider Drive, from Greene Road to Fitchburg, and Colladay Point and Barber Drive.

We are also regrading road shoulders throughout the town. Most of it is just routine regrading, because traffic keeps working the shoulder away from the edge of the pavement, and then the pavement can break away. When there isn't good shoulder gravel to pull back up with the grader, we'll be adding new crushed rock. For example, Spartan Hills will have some gravel added. For the rest of the town's roads, it'll just be a spot here and a spot there for this year. We'll have a lot of them to grade once the ground settles from the spring thaw.

### *Brushing*

We'll also be brushing along Lake Kegonsa Road this spring because of the work on Hwy. 51. This road is narrow and we don't want any accidents because brush is forcing people to drive in the center of the road. There is going to be a lot of heavy truck traffic from the gravel pit on Rutland-Dunn Townline Road and they will likely be hauling material from the pit off of Lake Kegonsa Road. There is also a sand pit off of Halverson Road and I expect they will be hauling from there as well.



The Town Hall office has a new look with a pass-through window. The window helps keep the office warmer says receptionist Carol French.

## S.A.F.E. helps in an emergency

Persons with health problems or disabilities can register to participate in SAFE (Safety Alert For Evacuation), a program that provides special safety evacuation services to Dane County residents.

Designed by the Madison Fire Department, SAFE utilizes the 911 system to store information about the location or special needs of individuals who are visually or hearing impaired, in a wheelchair or suffering from other health problems.

**How it Works:** When there is an emergency at the address of a person registered with SAFE, responding emergency personnel are notified by the 911 dispatcher of special needs at that address.

The emergency personnel can then bring specific equipment or supplies and know where to locate the registered person in case of fire or natural disaster.

**Benefits of SAFE:** Rescue crews know the special attention needed ahead of time. In case of a large-scale disaster, special needs people can be located. People living alone are provided an extra measure of safety. And, confidentiality is maintained because the computer-stored information is only accessed if there is an emergency.

Applications are available from the fire department or EMS serving your area or from the Madison Fire Department.

