

**United States Department of the Interior  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
National Human Resources Management Center  
Denver Federal Center, Building 50  
P.O. Box 25047  
Denver, Colorado 80224-0047**

In Reply Refer To:  
1112 (HR240)

January 5, 2000

EMS TRANSMISSION

Information Bulletin No. HR-2000-043

To: SD's ASD's, State Safety Managers

FROM: Director, National Human Resources Management Center

SUBJECT: Safety Alert - Military equipment Painted with Chemical Agent Resistant Coating

The Bureau of Land Management often obtains surplus military equipment. The information in this memorandum is provided as a safety alert to anyone who may work in welding or sanding operations. Ingredients found in Chemical Agent Resistant Coating (CARC) present health hazards when they become airborne as dusts, fumes, or vapors from sanding, welding, cutting, or heat application on equipment where the coating has been applied.

CARC is a paint applied to tactical military equipment to facilitate decontamination in the event of a chemical agent attack. CARC has been applied to military equipment since the early 1980's. It is mixed with pigments, then spray painted on equipment such as tactical vehicles, water tanks, trailers, etc. In accordance with information provided by the U.S. Army, most equipment, to include ammo cans, that was sent to the Persian Gulf War, was coated with CARC.

Ingredients may differ from color to color, but the most common hazardous ingredients include toluene, benzene, crystalline silica, ketone, and isocyanates. Crystalline silica is listed as a potential carcinogen. Effects of exposure include headache, nausea, dizziness, and disorientation. It is harmful to the respiratory tract, kidneys, and in severe cases, to the brain cells and the nervous system.

Chemicals found in CARC may enter the body thru inhalation, ingestion, and skin contact. The greatest hazard is in the application process, but abrasive (sanding, grinding, etc.) or hot (welding, cutting, abrasive cut-off, etc.) operations can also release these chemicals into the air in the form of dusts, gases, fumes, or vapors. Personnel who cut, weld, grind, etc. on CARC painted equipment must wear respiratory protection with HEPA

filters or an air purifying respirator.

To determine if equipment is coated with CARC, check for the following information:

- ◆ letters CARC stenciled near a data plate (on vehicles or trailers)
- ◆ information on shipping papers or transfer documents
- ◆ ask Defense Re-utilization and Marketing Office personnel

In accordance with the May 97 issue of PS Magazine, an Army maintenance publication, if there is no information available on the equipment, acetone can be applied to determine if CARC is present. Wet a cloth with acetone and rub hard on the painted surface for about 10 seconds. Then wet another cloth with acetone and rub again. If no paint comes off the second time, CARC **IS** present.

The presence of CARC paint should not prevent you from taking advantage of surplus military equipment that is available at low/no cost. Simply be aware that CARC painted equipment presents special hazards to our employees who may work on that equipment.

If you have any questions regarding this safety alert, please contact Bruce Prater, Bureau Safety Manager, at (303) 236-6530.

Signed by:  
Linda D. Sedbrook  
Director

Authenticated by:  
Darlene Robitaille  
Secretary

Distribution  
RS-150A, BLM Library  
NI-100, Reading file  
HR-240