



FACT SHEET

Sustainable Incinerator Operations



Fort Detrick Public Affairs Office
810 Schreider Street
Fort Detrick, MD 21702-5000

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What is it:

Fort Detrick operates an incinerator for medical and municipal waste disposal.

What is the background:

Among all U.S. Army installations, Fort Detrick has a mature recycling program that ranks among one the best averaging more than 47 percent of all solid waste recycled.

Fort Detrick operates four incinerators as part of one complex, under permits issued by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). Two of the incinerators are dedicated to medical solid waste and two are for municipal waste.

Municipal landfills life-spans are based upon volume and not weight. Through incineration of municipal waste the volume is reduced by 95 percent of volume, on average, which allows Fort Detrick to maintain an internally managed waste process.

Incinerators are also a source of thermal energy that is generated through a recovery system and converted into high pressure steam. By utilizing the excess thermal energy, this process reduces the amount of petroleum and natural gas that the government needs to purchase thus protecting taxpayer dollars and protecting the environment.

Why is it important to the Community?

Fort Detrick is rated in the top 1 percent in safety in the nation and has received a number of environmental and safety awards.

By incinerating the waste, Fort Detrick is able to help reduce overall greenhouse gases being released by two-thirds. Fort Detrick's incinerator's are monitored and inspected by the MDE and are well within the limits prescribed by the applicable permits. Additional benefits are achieved through energy recovery and conversion into high pressure steam. By incinerating the waste only 2.5 percent of the original volume is ultimately deposited in the landfill as inert ash extending the life of the landfill past 100 years.

Waste incineration is only one part of the overall conservation and environmental program. Fort Detrick has an aggressive recycling program that monthly recycles more than 47 percent of all waste.

The incinerators have advanced scrubbers to eliminate most discharge into the air though periodically a small amount of soot exits from the incinerator during startup, much like the average home fireplace or wood stove. The incinerator meets and exceeds requirements mandated by its usage permit.

Fort Detrick is committed to safety first, last and all the time. This commitment continues to be a dedication to the safety of the community, our families, friends and neighbors.

If the community or members of the media desire to seek information on Fort Detrick's activities, they are encouraged to visit <http://www.detrick.army.mil/responsible>, or contact the Garrison Public Affairs Office at (301) 619-2018.

Fort Detrick ... A Sustainable Community of Excellence