

Southwest Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee

Compact Fluorescent Lamp Safety/Collection Program Initiative



Florida Hazardous Material Awareness Week January 22-28, 2012

THEME: Minimizing Mercury Releases
FOCUS: Proper Disposal of Compact Fluorescent Lights

What are Compact Fluorescent Lights (CFLs)?

Compact fluorescent lamps are small light bulbs that can be screwed into a regular light socket. They use about 75% less energy than standard incandescent bulbs and last up to 10 times longer.

Did you know that these bulbs contain Mercury?

- CFLs contain a very small amount of mercury sealed within the glass tubing – an average of 4 milligrams – about the amount that would cover the tip of a ballpoint pen

Did you know that Mercury...

- is a substance naturally found in the environment
- in its elemental form, Mercury is a shiny, silver-white liquid metal
- can evaporate to form colorless, odorless vapors

Did you know that Mercury is harmful to Children, Adults, and the Environment?

How should I clean-up a broken CFL?

- Never use a vacuum cleaner or broom
- Evacuate the room for 15 minutes or more and shut off the Air Conditioner
- Place a pedestal or floor fan in front of an open window to blow air out
- Wear disposable gloves
- Carefully pick up glass fragments using still paper or cardboard
- Use sticky tape, such as duct tape to pick up remaining glass fragments
- Wipe the area clean with wet paper towels or disposable wet wipes
- Place all materials in double sealed plastic bags and wash hands
- Take plastic bags to a county recycling center



For additional information on the programs of the Southwest Florida Local Emergency Planning Committee, please contact John Gibbons at (239) 338-2550, Ext. 229, or visit www.swfepc.org