

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
PROVIDENCE, SC.**

SUPERIOR COURT

**JANET L. COIT, in her capacity as
Director, RHODE ISLAND
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT;
and PETER F. KILMARTIN, in his
capacity as Attorney General of the
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
Plaintiffs**

C.A. NO. PC-2015-0890

v.

**RHODE ISLAND RECYCLED
METALS, LLC; EDWARD SCIABA;
and AARE, LLC
Defendants**

SPECIAL MASTER'S REPORT & RECOMMENDATION REGARDING FIRE SAFETY

NOW COMES Richard J. Land, Special Master in the above-referenced matter (“Special Master”), and pursuant to the Court’s Order at the hearing on July 12, 2024 and the Amendment to Order Appointing Special Master entered on July 31, 2024 (the “Amended Order”), and Rule 53 of the Rhode Island Superior Court Rules of Procedure, submits this Report and Recommendation Regarding Fire Safety to the Court.

I. Background

A. Relevant Facts¹

In the eight (8) years since the appointment of the Special Master, there have been four (4) fires at the Rhode Island Recycled Metals, LLC (“RIRM”) facility located at 434 Allens Avenue, Providence, Rhode Island (the “Premises”). The first fire occurred on July 13, 2018, the second

¹ The relevant facts have been gathered by the Receiver from interested parties, publicly available documents, conferences, and/or the Receiver’s observations. The Receiver’s investigation has been limited by the circumstances of this case, including compressed timeframes. The Receiver presents this Report & Recommendation subject to those limitations and circumstances.

on March 8, 2021, the third on April 10, 2024, and the fourth on July 10, 2024.² The latter two fires, each of which involved the main scrap pile at the Premises, resulted in the deployment of multiple fire control vehicles by the Providence Fire Department (“PFD”) and a significant and extended PFD presence at the Premises. Moreover, each fire caused a plume of smoke to travel from the Premises across various areas of the City of Providence.

The Plaintiffs filed a Motion for Emergency Preliminary Injunctive Relief and to Modify July 27, 2016, Order Appointing Special Master (the “Modification Motion”), seeking a conversion of the Special Master’s role to that of a receiver, and a cessation of operations at the Premises pending implementation of remedial actions. After hearing on July 12, 2024, and over the objection of RIRM, the Court restrained RIRM from accepting any additional material at the Premises, and directed and authorized the Special Master to (i) investigate existing fire safety matters at the Premises, (ii) engage such experts as the Special Master deems appropriate and/or to utilize expert(s) engaged by RIRM, and (iii) to submit the Special Master’s recommendation to the Court pursuant to Rule 53 of the Rhode Island Rules of Civil Procedure.

B. The Special Master’s Actions

Prior to the hearing on the Plaintiff’s Modification Motion, the Special Master researched fire safety issues and recommendations for recycling facilities. In addition, the Special Master spoke briefly with the Providence Fire Inspector assigned to investigate the July 10, 2024, fire, as well as the Providence Fire Marshal. The Special Master found that recycling facility fires are not uncommon, particularly due to the disposal of lithium-ion batteries which are now found in many consumer products. In the short period between the July 10, 2024, fire and the July 12, 2024,

² The Special Master was on his way to the Premises at the time of the July 10, 2024, fire and was on site shortly after the fire started and was being addressed by the PFD. At that time, the Special Master was able to observe video of the Premises which showed when and where the fire started.

hearing on the Plaintiff's Modification Motion, the Special Master was unable to engage in dialogue with an independent expert in fire safety and prevention; nevertheless, the Special Master provided a list of recommendations to RIRM for consideration.³

From the time of the July 10, 2024, fire, the Special Master has been involved in ongoing discussions with RIRM. RIRM advised the Special Master that it had engaged a fire safety and prevention expert, Matthew Leonard, and that RIRM would make Mr. Leonard available to the Special Master, and direct Mr. Leonard to be responsive to the Special Master. The Special Master requested a resume from Mr. Leonard, a copy of which is attached hereto as **Exhibit A**. Based upon Mr. Leonard's extensive experience and expertise, together with RIRM's directive that Mr. Leonard work directly with the Special Master, the Special Master determined that it would not be necessary to incur the additional expense of a separate, independent expert, and that any funds that might otherwise be dedicated to such purpose would be better deployed for fire safety and prevention at the Premises.

The Special Master met with Mr. Leonard at the hearing on the Modification Motion, and thereafter at the Premises. Since the July 10, 2024, fire, the Special Master has maintained an ongoing dialogue with Mr. Leonard. Moreover, the Special Master shared with Mr. Leonard the Special Master's initial recommendations for his consideration. The Special Master has visited the Premises several times since the July 10, 2024, fire to observe and confirm implementation of Mr. Leonard's recommendations on a "rolling" basis.⁴ Finally, the Special Master communicated with the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management ("RIDEM") regarding potential alternative fire prevention systems that might be implemented at the Premises.

³ The Special Master's preliminary recommendations were provided to RIRM shortly before the hearing on the Modification Motion.

⁴ Mr. Leonard has worked with RIRM personnel to implement safety measures at the Premises simultaneous with his evaluation of the site and finalization of his recommendations.

Mr. Leonard has provided to the Special Master drafts of his recommendations which have included time frames for completion of tasks. The Special Master has reviewed such drafts with Mr. Leonard and has shared them with Plaintiffs. The Special Master has worked with Mr. Leonard to refine and finalize his recommendations as well as the Fire Prevention and Response Plan to be implemented at RIRM. As a result of the foregoing, the Special Master has prepared this Report and Recommendation.

II. Superior Court Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 53

Rule 53 of the Superior Court Rules of Civil Procedure provides that the scope of a master's powers are as set forth in the "order of reference." See Super. R. Civ. P. 53(c). "A reference may describe the master's powers, the issues on which the master must report, and the acts the master must perform. Subject to the terms of the reference, the master has near-plenary power to regulate all proceedings in any hearing before him. Thereafter, the master must furnish a report on the matters submitted. The master's report must set forth findings of fact and conclusions of law if the reference so requires." Cranston Restart, LLC v. Quality Design Cabinet, LLC, C.A. No. PC-21-5881, 20 (R.I. Super. Ct., J. Stern, June 6, 2023) (citing Super. R. Civ. P. 53(c)-(e)) (internal citations omitted).

In non-jury actions in Rhode Island, "the [C]ourt shall accept the master's findings of fact unless clearly erroneous[,] but will review the master's conclusions of law de novo." Id. at 22 (citing HNY Holding Co. v. Danis Transportation Co., 2004 WL 2075158, at *4 (R.I. Super. Ct. Apr. 8, 2010); Fleet National Bank v. H&D Entertainment, 96 F.3d 532, 540 (1st Cir. 1996)); see Super. Ct. R. Civ. P. 53(e)(2) ("In actions to be tried without a jury the court shall accept the master's findings of fact unless clearly erroneous."). Findings of fact are clearly erroneous where "the totality of the evidence leaves the reviewing court with a definite and firm conviction that a

mistake has occurred.” Cranston Restart, LLC, C.A. No. PC-21-5881, at 23 (quoting In re Derek, 448 A.2d 765, 767 (R.I. 1982)).

The Amended Order, which constitutes the order of reference under Rule 53, specifically describes the breadth of the Special Master’s duty in the present matter – evaluate existing processes and protocols for the Premises, and “develop a recommendation for and implementation of a comprehensive fire safety protocol for the Premises to enhance fire prevention, emergency preparedness, and overall fire safety policies, procedures, and protocols in connection with the Defendants’ operation of the Premises (“Protocol).” Further, the Amended Order provides that “[s]uch Protocol shall endeavor to implement so-called ‘best practices’ taking into account the nature of the operation and the physical characteristics of the Premises.”

III. Recommendation

Based upon the Special Master’s investigation and evaluation of the existing fire safety protocols at the Premises, the Special Master’s independent research and investigation, the Special Master’s collaboration with Mr. Leonard, and Mr. Leonard’s final recommendations, the Special Master adopts and recommends that the Court approve the recommendations proposed by Mr. Leonard, as set forth on Exhibit B, attached hereto and incorporated herein (the “Fire Safety Protocols”), which Fire Safety Protocols include RIRM’s Fire Prevention and Emergency Response Plan.⁵ The Special Master further recommends that the Court require RIRM to implement and maintain the Fire Safety Protocols consistently, retain Mr. Leonard (or another qualified, independent fire safety expert with expertise in metals recycling facilities) (the

⁵ The Fire Prevention and Response Plan is in final form but may be edited by Mr. Leonard’s editor for typographical corrections and formatting.

“Independent Risk Manager”) to oversee the Fire Safety Protocol as described therein,⁶ and based upon the recommendations of such Independent Risk Manager, update the Fire Safety Protocol as and when best practices and available, economically feasible technologies, dictate.

The Fire Safety Protocol includes:⁷

1. Written fire prevention plan;
2. Site organization, maintenance, and control, including the division of the main scrap area (where both recent fires occurred) into two (2) smaller areas with a 30+ foot divide between them to reduce the size of any scrap pile;
3. Proper storage of materials, including inspection and maintenance of storage areas;
4. Fire detection and prevention systems, including:
 - a. Infrared cameras for early detection of hot spots;
 - b. Additional cameras for monitoring the Premises and the storage areas, generally;⁸
 - c. Various types and sizes of fire extinguishers located around the Premises, including fire extinguishers on each piece of equipment;
 - d. 500-gallon portable water source on site;
 - e. If permissible, or approval can be obtained with reasonable effort, one or more water pumps to be placed in the Providence River for fire suppression.⁹

⁶ The Special Master is advised that Mr. Leonard will occupy the role of Independent Risk Manager. In the event Mr. Leonard no longer serves as the Independent Risk Manager, RIRM shall be required to engage a new Independent Risk Manager in accordance with the Fire Safety Protocols.

⁷ This list is intended as a summary only. As indicated within the Fire Safety Protocol, RIRM has already undertaken and implemented almost all of the recommendations.

⁸ This will bring the total number of security cameras at the Premises to 12;

⁹ Use of water pumps from the Providence River would be supplemental to other requirements and, if feasible, will be subject to necessary permitting and approvals from regulatory agencies, which may include RIDEM, CRMC and/or the US Army Corps of Engineers.

5. One or more of RIRM's employees are to be trained to serve as the Material and Fire Prevention Inspector to be on-site at all times, whose job shall include (a) inspecting all loads and segregate/remove impermissible materials such as propane tanks and lithium-ion batteries, (b) managing scrap pile size, and (c) manage and eliminate riskier activities on site (manage hot work and prohibit smoking, for instance);

6. Install a new sign at the entry to the Premises identifying "Prohibited Material" – sign to be in English and Spanish;

7. On-going employee training on, among other matters, fire prevention, emergency procedures, use of fire extinguishers, hazardous waste operations and emergency response, OSHA requirements;¹⁰

8. Develop emergency response plans and undertake training drills thereon;

9. Regular yard inspections and maintenance, including vegetation management, maintaining site controls, including berms and hay bales; and

10. Regular record keeping of training, inspections and site management, such records to be reviewed by the Independent Risk Manager on a regular basis with confirmation thereof by the Independent Risk Manager to the Special Master.

RIRM has ordered infrared cameras and additional security cameras as required under the Fire Safety Protocol. Such cameras are anticipated to be received and installed by August 9, 2024. The Special Master questioned whether the absence of such devices renders the Premises unsafe to reopen. Mr. Leonard advised the Special Master that in his expert opinion, the infrared and security cameras enhance the overall safety and security at the Premises, but that their absence

¹⁰ OSHA training is not specific to fire prevention, but rather, generalized safety protocols. Mr. Leonard believes this training is good to have, generally, but not required per se.

does not render operations at the site unsafe in light of the other significant safety improvements already implemented.¹¹

Finally, the Special Master recommends that until the Special Mastership is terminated, the Independent Risk Manager be required to provide to the Special Master monthly reports certifying RIRM's compliance with the Fire Safety Protocols, any additional training, procedures or processes implemented by RIRM, and any further recommendation of the Independent Risk Manager ("Monthly Certifications").

IV. Conclusion

For the reasons set forth above, the Special Master recommends that the Court:

1. Approve the Fire Safety Protocol;
2. Require RIRM (and any successor to RIRM operating a metals recycling facility on the Premises) to maintain the Fire Safety Protocol until further order of this Court;
3. Require RIRM to hire and maintain the engagement of the Independent Risk Manager;
4. Require the Independent Risk Manager to provide the Special Master and the Plaintiffs with weekly reports through September 2024, and thereafter the Monthly Certifications of Compliance, and in the absence of compliance, to identify any deficiencies together with a remedial action work plan with respect thereto;
5. Allow RIRM to reopen on an interim basis, provided that, until the infrared cameras identified in Fire Safety Protocol are installed:

¹¹ A metals recycling facility has inherent and unavoidable risks. The Fire Safety Protocol is intended to mitigate those risks based upon best practices in the industry taking into account the size, scope, and physical characteristics of the Premises and the recycling operation.

a. RIRM shall take in no more than thirty-five (35) tons of scrap material per day;

b. RIRM shall maintain scrap piles of approximately equal size;

c. Scrap material shall be removed from the site on not less than a weekly basis; and

d. RIRM shall expedite the installation of the infrared cameras as soon as possible.

6. Authorize the Special Master, with input from the Independent Risk Manager, to seek emergency relief from the Court in the event of non-compliance with the Fire Safety Protocol, which relief may include immediate cessation of operations at the Premises;

7. Require all interested parties to provide information reasonably requested by the Special Master relating to or concerning fire safety and compliance.

/s/ Richard J. Land

Richard J. Land, Special Master

State Bar No. 5592

Chace Ruttenberg & Freedman, LLP

One Park Row, Suite

Providence, RI 02903

(401) 453-6400

Dated: August 6, 2024

EXHIBIT A

MATTHEW H. LEONARD
42 Deer Run Drive West Greenwich RI 02817
401 601-1454
Matthewhleonard@hotmail.com

EXPERIENCE

2006 - PRESENT

PRESIDENT

RHODE ISLAND SAFETY SOLUTIONS

I partner with clients to implement the best industry practices to protect their employees, equipment, clients, the public, and the environment. I aim for my clients to exceed the industry standards for health and safety and maintain a corporate goal of ZERO accidents, or illnesses. My services include Risk Assessment, Safety Audits, Safety Training, Safety Plan Development, Regulatory Compliance, Incident Investigation, Emergency Response Planning and Safety Culture Enhancement.

2023 – PRESENT

LOSS CONTROL / SAFETY SPECIALIST

STARKWEATHER & SHEPLEY INSURANCE BROKERAGE, INC.

Hazard detection, risk evaluation, and improvement recommendations initially for underwriting purposes, but primarily focused on the benefit for the insured customer. Provide consulting service work for customers receiving ongoing safety management service. This involves identifying exposures with significant loss potential, investigation of cause/effect of major losses and hazards and determining alternate methods of control that can be recommended to the customers. Implement the following initiatives and programs:

- Training employees on course safety programs and initiatives
- Conduct comprehensive hazard and risk identification and assessments
- Audits
- Inspections
- Accident Investigations to determine Root Cause Analysis
- Training and education

2020 – 2023

RISK MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT

SINCLAIR RISK & FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

I work directly with clients, assessing their risks and developing/implementing risk control plans that provide real results with reduced claims, lower insurance cost, improved worker moral/retention and increased profit. I become my client's Safety Director and work with General Contractors to create/implement all the required safety documentation for subcontractors (my clients) and guarantee all employees can proficiently execute the approved plans. I have worked with the largest General Contractors in the United States to improve safety at their jobsites. There is nothing more important for any company than protecting their employees, the public, equipment, and the environment. I enjoy bringing the tools and experience to motivate, train, and engage employees so that safety is taken seriously by all.

Insurance Producer (NPN 19703651) – State Of Rhode Island Department Of Business Regulations

MATTHEW H. LEONARD
42 Deer Run Drive West Greenwich RI 02817
401 230-4626
Matthewhleonard@hotmail.com

2011 – 2020

CORPORATE SAFETY DIRECTOR

J.R VINAGRO CORPORATION

- ❖ Oversee safety operations for all company divisions (asbestos abatement, crushing, recycling, disposal, hauling, land-clearing, Heavy Civil Bridge Demolition & Site Development).
- ❖ Develop and Implement all Safety Policies, Procedures, Plans and Guidelines.
- ❖ Directly worked with OSHA, MSHA, FMCSA, Fire Marshall, EPA, DEM and other local, state and federal agencies.
- ❖ Maintain positive relationships with regulatory, subcontractor, and other peer safety professionals.
- ❖ Implement health and safety programs and procedures, including the development of policies and procedures.
- ❖ Proactively investigate unsafe acts and determine appropriate disciplinary procedures, corrective actions and follow up.
- ❖ Set safety inspection criteria and expectations; analyze data and identify trends in performance and incidents.
- ❖ Ensure that root cause analysis of near miss incidents or accidents are understood and proactively drive corrective actions quickly.
- ❖ Maintain knowledge of industry trends and consensus standards.
- ❖ Evaluate, develop, and implement internal and external safety training materials/courses.
- ❖ Create and maintain annual budget for the department.
- ❖ Chair and facilitate Safety Committee.

2006 – 2011

SAFETY MANAGER

GREYLAWN FOODS, INC.

- ❖ Managed day to day activities related to the facilities.
- ❖ Created and implemented safety policies and procedures in compliance with local, state, and federal rules/regulations.
- ❖ Coordinated ongoing driver safety training.
- ❖ Assisted in the development, evaluation, and upgrading of safety programs.
- ❖ Conducted a periodic internal audit of DOT driver qualification files and records to ensure compliance.
- ❖ Participated in new driver training, orientation, and onboarding processes.

1993 – 2006

BUISNESS ASSESSMENT ENGINEER (FACILITIES & SAFETY)

IRON MOUNTAIN, INC.

Evaluated And Trained Employees On Safety And Security Programs As Locations Throughout The United States, Canada, Mexico And South America – Over 1,000 Facilities In 40 Countries. Responsibilities Included:

- ❖ Managed construction projects to ensure compliance with all local, state, OSHA regulations.
- ❖ Worked with vendors to ensure they follow company safety policy.
- ❖ Evaluated facilities for Health, Safety and Fire Code violations.
- ❖ Crated and implemented Corporate Safety Policies.
- ❖ Conducted behavioral based safety training.

MATTHEW H. LEONARD
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EDUCATION

- ❖ Safety and Occupation Health Applied Sciences – **Keene State College**
- ❖ Business Administration -**University of Rhode Island**
- ❖ Associate of Applied Science, Fire Science - **Community College of Rhode Island**
- ❖ Associate of Science, General Business - **Community College of Rhode Island**

TRAINING/CERTIFICATIONS:

- ❖ Construction Risk & Insurance Specialist (CRIS) – **International Risk Management Institute**
- ❖ Transportation Risk and Insurance Professional (TRIP) - **International Risk Management Institute**
- ❖ Certified Safety and Health Official – General Industry (CSHO) – **Keene State College**
- ❖ Certified Safety and Health Official - Construction (CSHO) – **Keene State College**
- ❖ Certified Occupational Hearing Conservationist (COHC) – **The Council for Accreditation for Occupational Hearing Conservation**
- ❖ OSHA Authorize Trainer for Construction - **OSHA Training Institute Education Center**
- ❖ OSHA Authorize Trainer for General Industry - **OSHA Training Institute Education Center**
- ❖ Certified Trainer for 40 Hour HAZWOPER / HAZMAT – **New Environment, Inc.**
- ❖ OSHA 30-hour Construction Safety & Health – **Keene State College**
- ❖ Emergency Medical Technician - **Community College of Rhode Island**
- ❖ American Red Cross First Aid /CPR/AED Instructor – **American Red Cross**
- ❖ Forklift Train-the-Trainer – **Beacon Mutual Insurance Company**
- ❖ MEWP – Train the Trainer – **United Rentals**

MEMBERSHIPS

- ❖ Construction Industries of Massachusetts, Inc – MBTA Safety Committee
- ❖ National Safety & Risk Management – Trained members of the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries (ISRI)
- ❖ Utility Contractors Association of Connecticut – Scholarship Committee
- ❖ Member of the Associates of the Rhode Island State Troopers Association
- ❖ Member of National Demolition Association
- ❖ Member of Safer Rhode Island
- ❖ Member of American Society of Trainers and Developers.
- ❖ Past member of Northeast Disaster Recovery Information X-change.

EXHIBIT B



Rhode Island Safety Solutions

Safety and Risk Management Solutions

July 29, 2024

Richard J Land
Chace Ruttenberg & Freedman, LLP
One Park Row Suite 300
Providence, RI 02903

Re: My recommendations regarding Rhode Island
Recycling Metals, LLC.

Here are my clarification and additional information for the recommendations along with completion dates.

1. Fire Prevention Plan:

- Develop and implement a comprehensive site-specific fire prevention plan that outlines procedures, responsibilities, and protocols for fire prevention and response. **Completed Date 08/01/2024 Draft; updated on 08/06/2024 to incorporate RIDEM comments and concerns.**

2. Site Layout and Organization:

- Ensure that the yard is well-organized with clear pathways and designated storage areas for distinct types of materials. Metal scrap pile will be separated into two smaller piles as recommended by Providence Fire Marshall. **Completed**
- Keep flammable materials separated from ignition sources and incompatible materials. **Completed – See list of chemicals and flammable materials Appendix A – updated list to include propane for forklift.**

3. Storage of Materials:

- Store scrap materials in designated areas, keeping them away from buildings, vehicles, and other equipment. **Completed**
- Regularly inspect and maintain storage containers (e.g., dumpsters, bins) to ensure they are in good condition, and they do not contain flammable material or chemicals. **Completed and will be checked daily (prior to shift and end of day) See Appendix B**
- All flammables must be stored in Flammable Storage Cabinets. – **Completed – See list of chemicals and flammable materials Appendix A**

4. Fire Detection and Suppression Systems:

- Install and maintain appropriate fire detection systems that is monitored 24-hours. Infrared heat and fire detection cameras have been ordered and installation is scheduled to be **completed by August 9, 2024**. and are waiting for installation.
- Add three additional security cameras to provide 24 hours of monitoring for areas not covered with the current 9 cameras. The cameras have been ordered and installation is scheduled to be **completed by August 9, 2024**.
- Have readily accessible fire extinguishers suitable for distinct types of fires (e.g., Class A, B, C) in all buildings and outside in the yard where they are readily available. **Completed**
- Have three 30-lbs Class A, B, C fire extinguishers outside in the yard where they are readily available – **Completed**
- Have two 50-lbs Class A, B, C, fire extinguishers outside in the yard on wheels and readily available. **Completed**
- Put fire extinguishers in all equipment and company vehicles onsite. **Completed**
- Have a portable water source with a minimum of 500 gallons in the yard near scrap pile and readily available. **Completed**
- Request permission to use water from Providence River that will be used to extinguish a fire with the use of a pump and fire hose. **Waiting for a response from RI DEM.**
- **No fire extinguishers contain Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFA) as Effective January 1, 2027, no person will legally be able to manufacture, sell, offer for sale, or distribute in Rhode Island any “covered product” that contains “intentionally added” PFAS.**
- Fire extinguisher training **completed**

5. Control Ignition Sources:

- **Material and Fire Prevention Inspector.** A fully trained employee will be onsite during operations. They're solely responsible for inspecting and identifying potential hazards prior to being offloaded at the site and into the pile.
 - Their role is to prevent flammable materials like propane/gas tanks, paints, oil, grease, lubricants, and other hazardous materials from being allowed into the pile. **Initial Training was completed on July 29, 2024 – Training and evaluation will be ongoing for continuous improvement.**
 - Prevent lithium and other batteries from entering the pile.
 - Manage the reduction of scrap pile size by dividing the single pile into smaller separate piles as recommended by the Providence Fire Marshal. **Completed.**

- Implement strict controls on hot work activities (e.g., welding, cutting) and ensure they are performed in designated areas away from combustible materials. Hot Works Permit policy. **Completed**
- Prohibit smoking and open flames on property. **Completed**
- Install large signage that list all “Prohibited Material” to the scale to inform customer of the prohibited materials that can NOT be accepted. The signage should be in English and Spanish and provide pictograms of the Prohibited Material. **Completed**

6. Employee Training:

- Provide regular training to employees on fire prevention measures, emergency procedures, and the use of fire extinguishers. **Completed on 7/24/2024 and retrained on August 6, 2024 with RIDEM suggestions and concerns with plan. Ongoing for continuous improvement.**
- Encourage a culture of vigilance and responsibility among all employees to report potential fire hazards promptly. **Completed and ongoing for continuous improvement.**
- Supervisors and Managers will be trained and certified for HAZMAT and 40-hours of HAZWOPER (Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response). **Training has Started - Completion Date August 5, 2024.**
- Supervisors and Managers will be trained on OSHA Outreach 30-Hours of Training. **Completion date August 15, 2024.**
- Train all employees on the updated site-specific fire prevention and emergency response plan. **Completed on July 31, 2024**

7. Emergency Preparedness:

- Develop and practice emergency response plans for fires, including evacuation procedures, assembly points, and communication protocols. **Completed and updated with RIDEM suggestions and concerns on August 6, 2024.**
- Coordinate with local fire departments to familiarize them with the site and its specific hazards on a quarterly basis. **Ongoing for continuous improvement**

8. Environmental Factors:

- Consider weather conditions (e.g., elevated temperatures, dry spells) that may increase fire risks and adjust preventive measures accordingly. Wet pile as needed. **Ongoing for continuous improvement**
- Maintain vegetation around the scrap yard to reduce the risk of grass fire spreading to the site. **Ongoing for continuous improvement**
- Install/Build a burn around the scrap piles to prevent any storm or firefighting water from leaving the site. **Completed**

9. Regular Inspections and Maintenance:

- Conduct regular inspections of equipment, machinery, and electrical systems to identify and address potential fire hazards. Prior to shift and at end of day. Forms and training **Completed on July 24, 2024.**
- Ensure that fire lanes and access roads are always clear and accessible. **Completed and ongoing for continuous improvement.**
- Have 3rd party Safety Consultant conduct a minimum of weekly documented safety inspection of entire operations. **Unannounced inspections during regular operating hours will be Ongoing for continuous improvement.**
- Create a Safety Committee of employees that will meet regularly with 3rd Party Safety Consultant to discuss safety issues and create and nurture a culture of safety. **Ongoing for continuous improvement**

10. Documentation and Review:

- Keep records of fire drills, inspections, and maintenance activities.
- Review and update fire prevention and emergency response plans regularly to incorporate lessons learned and changes in operations.

By implementing these safety recommendations, we can significantly reduce the risk of fires and ensure the safety of employees, visitors, the environment, and neighboring communities.

Sincerely,

Matthew Leonard, CHSO, CRIS, TRIS
Email: MatthewHLLeonard@Hotmail.com

DISCLAIMER: Observations and recommendations are purely advisory and based on practices and conditions observed and information provided at the time of this survey. Observations and recommendations are not intended to include every loss or accident potential. It's the report recipient's responsibility to make further observations and take whatever action that may be necessary to prevent losses, enforce safety procedures and eliminate hazardous conditions to comply with any federal, state, or local law, rule or regulation concerning safety and health.

**Appendix A – All chemicals stored at Rhode Island Recycling Metals, LLC
at 434 Allens Avenue, Providence, RI 02905**

Product	Amount per container	Total Containers
Mobil Grease	12.7 oz	4
Bteck scale Paint	Quart	1
Fran Transmission Fluid	gallon	4
Pyroil Starting fluid	11 oz	8
B-CRM brake clean	14 oz	3
Paint	gallon	8
Shell 10w-40 Oil	gallon	4
Gasoline for leaf blower	litters	2
BP Blaster	12 oz	3
Antifreeze	gallon	1
Chevron Motor oil 10W-40	gallon	2

- ALL are stored in a locked Flammable Cabinet.
- 1 Excavators, 1 loader, and 1 wash truck contain batteries, hydraulic fluid, grease, diesel fluid, and lubricates.

Appendix B – Pre-Shift and Post Shift Inspection Report



434 Allens Avenue - Providence, RI 02905
Phone:(401) 461-9700 Fax:(401) 461-9707

Pre-shift and Post-Shift Daily Inspection Report.

CHECKED AND OKAY		
MAY NEED FUTURE ATTENTION		
REQUIRES IMMEDIATE ATTENTION		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Check excavator, loader and wash truck for leaks.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Are there any spills or leaks from customer's or vendor's equipment or vehicles?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Check Berm to verify it has not been altered.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Verify the maintenance of stormwater runoff protections
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Are the piles separated as instructed by the Providence Fire Marshall?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Verify no flammable or prohibited materials are in any dumpster.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Verify all fire extinguishes are change and readily available.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Inspect Wash Truck and fill water Tank
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Move Wash Truck with Water to pile - Place Wash Truck away for pile at close.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Are containers available with dry sand to place lithium batteries
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Are containers availed with dry sand for other batteries (A, b , C, D, or 9 volt).
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Are batteries stored in the Hoop Building next to the Scale house.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Are batteries stored more than 30 days. MUST call Battery Recyclers of America
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Are Safety Data Sheets up to date and employees have access to the SDS.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Inspect all cords and plugs
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Are all electrical cords or plugs attached to a GFCI
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Check electrical panels to guarantee a minimum clearance of 30 inches wide in from of electrical panels.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Are all pathways and roadways clear?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Keep aisles and exits clear of items.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Is the areas around buildings free of trach or combustible debris?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Are all flammable and chemicals stored in the locked flammable container
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Can emergency vehicles gain access without being obstructed by parked vehicles or equipment?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Does any employee(s) need training?

Date: _____

Time: _____

Employee Signature: _____

Appendix C – Employee Training

HAZWOPER TRAINING TOPICS

Hazard Communication

- o Describe the Hazard Communication Standard.
- o Identify how employers inform employees of hazardous chemicals at a job site.
- o Describe the importance of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals.
- o Identify health and physical hazards associated with chemicals.
- o Describe the purpose of a safety data sheet.
- o List the sections of a safety data sheet.

• Roles and Responsibilities

- o Describe how to prepare a key personnel portion of the site-specific health and safety plan.
- o Identify an individual who has the authority to direct all activities.
- o Identify the other personnel needed for the project and assign their general functions and responsibilities.
- o Show lines of authority, responsibility, and means of contact.
- o List optional personnel to include in the site-specific health and safety plan.

• HAZWOPER Sites and Zones

- o Describe the primary purpose for established site control zones at a hazardous materials incident.
- o Describe how a site map is used as part of a site control program.
- o List the major steps in site preparation prior to any cleanup activities.
- o List three frequently used HAZWOPER Site Work Zones.
- o Describe the function of a hotline and buddy system.

• General Health and Safety Plan Guidelines

- o Describe how to ensure that everyone who enters a site is aware of the health and safety guidelines.
- o Describe the precautions to take to prevent work injury.
- o List the precautions to take when working with tools and heavy equipment.

- **Identifying Hazardous Substances**

- o List hazardous substances.
- o List types of aerosols.
- o Describe boiling point, vapor pressure, flash point, vapor density, and ph.
- o Describe why vapor density is important.
- o List types of oxidizers.
- o Define lower and upper explosive limits.

- **Hazard Recognition**

- o Describe how conditions at a waste site could result in worker hazards.
- o Describe the importance of accident or exposure prevention.
- o List types of chemical physical hazards.
- o Describe how to prevent electrical accidents.
- o Describe work practices to minimize infection from bloodborne pathogens.
- o List characteristics of lock and tag devices.

- **Respiratory Protection**

- o Describe the respiratory protection program.
- o List types of respirators.
- o List respiratory equipment.
- o Describe how air-purifying respirators operate.
- o List types of cartridges used in an air-purifying respirator.
- o Describe how to use a self-contained breathing apparatus.
- o Describe when to use a supplied-air respirator.
- o Describe how to determine the protection factor of a respirator.
- o Describe how to test a respirator fitting.

- **Decontamination Plans and Managing Emergencies**

- o Describe the parts of a decontamination plan.
- o Describe methods of minimizing worker contact with hazardous waste.
- o Describe the decontamination procedures during medical emergencies.

- **Decontamination of Personnel, Persistent Contamination, and Disposal**

- o Describe the layout of a personnel decontamination station.
- o Describe the factors that determine the extent of decontamination required.
- o List the decontamination procedures.
- o Describe what to do if the decontamination procedure does not work.
- o Describe decontamination facility designs.

- **Drums**

- o Describe how to inspect drums.
- o List the equipment used to move drums.
- o Describe how to enhance the efficiency and safety of drum-opening.
- o List incompatible chemicals.
- o Describe how a staging area is used for bulking and shipping drums

- **Introduction to Confined Spaces**

- o Define confined space.
- o List types of confined spaces.
- o Describe how to predict hazards in confined spaces.
- o List causes of fatalities in confined spaces.

- **Confined Spaces Pre-Entry and Protective Device Control**

- o List the key components of confined space safety.
- o Describe the elements of a confined space entry plan.
- o Describe the air test process.
- o List the elements of a confined space permit.
- o List the steps for preparing the confined space for entry.
- o Describe how to use protective devices, controls, and monitoring in confined space entry.

- **Compressed Gas Cylinders**

- o List types of compressed gases.
- o Describe how to identify a compressed gas cylinder.
- o Describe the hazards of compressed gases.
- o Explain gas cylinder storage procedures.
- o Describe how to safely open a valve.
- o Describe what to do if a cylinder is leaking.
- o Describe how to move a cylinder.

- **Toxicology**

- o List known toxic effects of chemicals and other hazardous substances.
- o Describe the different routes of exposure of toxic chemicals.
- o List the chemical classifications.
- o Describe the effects of chemical exposure to the body.
- o Describe how toxins interact with other chemicals and toxins.
- o Describe how you can protect yourself from toxins.

- **Chemical Awareness**

- o Describe how chemical safety is communicated.
- o Describe how concentration impacts the strength of a chemical.
- o List the types of chemical hazards.
- o List the do's and don'ts for solvents.
- o Describe how to protect yourself from oxidizers.
- o Describe the characteristics of chemical hazards.
- o List the forms of radioactive contamination.
- o Describe how to protect yourself from radiation exposure.

- **Air Monitoring**

- o Describe what the data obtained from air monitoring is useful for.
- o List the factors used to choose a sampling instrument.
- o Describe how to calibrate an instrument.
- o Describe how to monitor catalytic combustion, oxygen availability, combustibility, and toxic atmospheric monitors.
- o Describe how to monitor and detect radiation.
- o Define active and passive samplers.

- **Site Characterization**

- o Describe the phases of site characterization.
- o List what should be included in parameter reconnaissance.
- o Describe the steps needed before entering a hazardous site.
- o Explain how documentation and documentation control is used when monitoring a hazardous site.

- **Hazardous Materials Sampling**

- o Describe what is needed for a sampling plan.
- o List what qualifies as a chain of custody.
- o List the tools used for soil sampling.
- o Describe the process for underground and surface water sampling.
- o List the tools used for container opening.
- o List the do's and don'ts for container sampling.

• **Personal Protective Equipment**

- o Describe how personal protective equipment (PPE) can cause work hazards.
- o Describe the type of PPE training required by workers.
- o List the levels of PPE.
- o Describe when different levels of PPE should be worn.

• **Wearing Personal Protective Equipment**

- o Describe the different types of protective clothing.
- o Describe how to inspect and select protective clothing.
- o List what may impact work duration.
- o Describe how to safely use personal protective equipment (PPE).
- o Describe how PPE can influence heat-related illness.
- o Describe the general requirements for PPE.

• **Site Emergencies**

- o List work site and waste site related emergencies.
- o Describe how a contingency plan is developed.
- o List the organizational structure in the chain of command.
- o Describe how to use internal and external communication.
- o List what should be included in site mapping.
- o Describe how to create an evacuation route.

• **Excavations**

- o Describe the general requirements for excavations.
- o Describe the roles and responsibilities of the competent person.
- o List the soil classifications.
- o List the options for protective systems.
- o Describe the different shoring systems.

• **Medical Surveillance**

- o Describe the importance of a medical surveillance program.
- o List what should be included in a medical surveillance program.
- o Describe how to develop a site-specific medical program.
- o Describe the importance of periodic medical screening.
- o List what medical records should be kept.

• **Emergency Response Procedures and Documentation**

- o List emergency response procedures.
- o Describe the follow-up procedures for emergencies.
- o Describe how to document emergency responses.

OSHA 30 TRAINNG TOPICS

- introduction to OSHA (1 hour)
- Managing Safety and Health (2 hours)
- Walking and Working Surfaces, including Fall Protection (1 hour)
- Exit Routes, Emergency Action Plans, Fire Prevention Plans, and Fire Protection (3 hours)
- Electrical (2 hours)
- Personal Protective Equipment and Lifesaving Equipment (2 hours)
- Materials Handling (2 hours)
- Hazard Communication (1 hour)
- Hazardous Materials (Flammable and Combustible Liquids, Spray Finishing, (2 Hour)
- Lockout / Tagout (1 Hour)
- Machine Guarding (1 hour)
- Introduction to Industrial Hygiene (2 Hour)
- Bloodborne Pathogens (1 Hour)
- Ergonomics (1 Hour)
- Fall Protection (1 Hour)
- Safety and Health Programs (2 hour)
- Powered Industrial Vehicles (1 Hour)
- Site Specific Hazards (2 hours)
- Identifying Lithium batteries and how to handle, proper storage, and how to contact proper recycling center. (2 Hours).



FIRE PREVENTION & EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

Matthew H. Leonard August 1, 2024
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INTRODUCTION

Rhode Island Recycling Metals, LLC (RIRM) prohibits flammable materials like lubricants, paints, grease, oil, propane, and gas tanks from being accepted at their facility.

The number of metal recycling plant fires has risen over the last few years. An increased number of lithium-ion batteries found in the waste stream is causing most fire incidents.

Most people are familiar with the rechargeable batteries in their laptops, smart phones, and tablets, but these small batteries are also in musical greeting cards, toys, appliances, Fitbit, smart watches, GPS devices, electronic cigarettes, earbuds, electric scooters, hoverboards, and even kitchen sinks.

Unlike traditional alkaline batteries, lithium-ion batteries are capable of spontaneously igniting from overheating. This is because they can pack a lot of energy into a small package, having the highest energy density of any battery technology.

As recycled materials are cut, crushed, or compacted, traces of flammable substances can ignite when pressure is applied.

There is nothing more important for a company than protecting their employees, the public, and environment while being a good neighbor.

This plan emphasizes employee training, fire detection technologies, and incipient firefighting. RIRM will exceed regulatory compliance and incorporate industry “best” standards as recommended by ISRI (Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries), NFPA (National Fire Protection Association, Local Fire Marshall, and insurance carriers.

RIRM can continue to keep material out of landfills and allow for its reuse in a way that helps the environment and the economy while keeping everyone safe.

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The fire prevention and management plan (Plan) will focus on the fire triangle: Fire requires the presence of a fuel source, an ignition source, and a substance that supports combustion— usually oxygen. To prevent fires, this plan will control or eliminate one or more of the three elements of the fire triangle.

This Plan is site-specific and focuses on the specific fire hazards and firefighting equipment associated with this site.

1. Smoking or open flames are prohibited on this site including in vehicles or equipment.

2. Material and Fire Prevention Inspector

- A. This facility rejects any load that contains any batteries.
- B. A fully trained employee will be onsite during operations. They're solely responsible for inspecting and identifying potential hazards prior to being offloaded at the site and into the pile.
- C. A minimum of Two employee are to be fully trained.
- D. The facility will not operate without a fully trained Material and Fire Prevention Inspector inspecting each load.
- E. Their role is to prevent flammable materials like propane/gas tanks, paints, oil, grease, lubricants, and other hazardous materials from being allowed into the pile.
- F. Prevent lithium and other batteries from entering the pile.
- G. Manage the reduction of scrap pile size by dividing the single pile into smaller separate piles as recommended by the Providence Fire Marshal.
- H. Check all scrap items for hidden places (refrigerators, freezers, washer/dryers, grills, etc.) that customers may try to put batteries or other prohibited items

3. Prevention of Batteries from Entering Facility

- A. Prevent electric scooters, hoverboards, bikes, electronics such as smartphones, smartwatches, laptops, fitness trackers, and other wearable devices tablets.
- B. Prevent hearing aids, cameras, and some remote controls.
- C. Prevent any touchless devices like faucets and electronic locks/safes.

4. Removal of Battery

- A. If any employee finds a battery they must immediately inspect and extract it from the pile.
- B. The employee should inspect the battery for damage. If undamaged:
- C. The employee should tape the battery terminals and place it in a dedicated temporary storage container (a 5-gallon container marked for undamaged batteries).
- D. The ends of non-lithium batteries must be taped to prevent contact with metal or another battery.
- E. Once placed in the can, the employee must scoop sand or kitty litter on top of the battery and place it in designated container.

5. Damaged Battery Protocol

- A. Damaged batteries should not be stored with other undamaged batteries.
- B. Batteries that are swelling, smoking, leaking, or overheating should be treated with extreme caution. Gases released will be extremely toxic and highly flammable. The Providence Fire Department must be contacted immediately.
- C. Immediately place them in an absorbent, non-flammable material in a cool, dry place.
- D. Store outdoors away from structures, vehicles, and equipment.
- E. Store in a noncombustible structure.
- F. Recommended storage materials include sand or kitty litter.

6. Battery Storage and Removal from facility

- A. At the end of each day, batteries should be moved to the short-term storage location within the hoop building that is located next to the scale house.
- B. Must be stored in a remote location and away from flammable or combustible materials.
- C. Must be stored where it can NOT get wet.
- D. A battery recycler vendor, (Battery Recyclers of America) will pick-up batteries to be recycled at their facility.
- E. There will be no long-term batteries stored on this site.
- F. All batteries will be removed within 30 days.
- G. The Facility Manager will contact the source/generator of any battery found after a load has been accepted.
- H. Damaged batteries that cannot be recycled must be treated as hazardous and NEDT will be contacted to perform any chemical waste disposal (800 698-1865).

7. Storage of Materials

- A. Store scrap materials in designated areas, keeping them away from buildings, vehicles, and other equipment.
- B. Daily inspect and maintain storage containers (dumpsters/bins) to ensure they are in good condition, and they do not contain flammable material or chemicals – beginning and end of day.
- C. All flammables must be stored in Flammable Storage Cabinets.
- D. Maintain inventory list of all items in flammable storage cabinets and SDS.
- E. Ensure that the yard is well-organized with clear pathways and designated storage areas for distinct types of materials.
- F. Metal scrap pile must be separated into two smaller piles as recommended by Providence Fire Marshall.
- G. Prevent recycling metal inventory to build-up by increasing processing and hauling of the material to processing facilities.
- H. Keep material piles at a minimum of 30-foot distance apart to create an adequate fire break and have driving aisles to ensure access for firefighting equipment.
- I. Control pile size, such as auxiliary storage and controlling the flow of material in times of equipment shutdown or unusual market conditions that lead to higher-than-normal volumes.

8. Water the Scrap Piles

- A. **Hot Weather:** Water the scrap pile when temperatures reach above 85°F (29°C) to help cool down the metal and prevent dust from becoming a fire hazard. In extreme heat, such as above 100°F (38°C), the risk of fire increases, so more frequent watering may be needed.
- B. **Dust Control:** Even if it's not excessively hot, if a significant amount of dust comes from the pile or any leaving the site, then a mist of water will be applied to the piles to eliminate dust and prevent potential fire risks.

9. Housekeeping:

- A. Implement a regular daily cleaning schedule to remove combustible debris, such as paper and wood scraps, from the yard prior to the end of shift and as needed.
- B. Aisles, walkways, and doorways free of obstructions within buildings at all times.
- C. Avoid ground contact with oil or hydraulic fluid and immediately remove any such spills or stains on the ground or equipment, and immediately contact RIDEM.
- D. Make certain that tools are kept clean and put away after use.
- E. Clean roads, parking lots, and operations areas of metal and debris regularly.
- F. Remove any waste buildup in operations areas and around the perimeter of the facility.
- G. Don't leave oily rags or gloves laying around.
- H. Keep buildings, equipment, and vehicles clean, painted, and well-maintained.
- I. Make sure that operator compartment windows are clean and unobscured.
- J. Separate scrap piles carefully and clean unloading areas between loads.
- K. Clear dead bush, grass, and debris around fence.
- L. Electrical panels must be closed and have a minimum of 36 inches of clearance in front of the panel.
- M. Space heaters are prohibited in any buildings.

10. Vehicles and Mobile Equipment

- A. Inspect all vehicles and Mobile Equipment for fire prevention prior to the start of shift and end of shift. Focus the inspection on the condition of the hydraulic hoses as well as other fire causes, such as sparks, and spark prevention.
- B. Inspect heating systems prior to the start of shift and end of shift.
- C. Inspect all extension cords, outlets and verify that GFCI are being used prior to the start of shift and end of shift.

11. Hot Work

- A. A Hot Work Permit is required for any cutting, welding, soldering, grinding, and brazing for maintenance, repair, recycling activities or any other use.
- B. Fire-patrol person/fire watch shall not have any responsibilities while serving in this role; during hot work and 1 hour after completion of hot works and are solely responsible for fire prevention/safety activities;;.

- C. No Hot Work is allowed when winds are over 15 miles per hour and will occur only in areas cleared of all flammable vegetation and materials at a minimum radius of 30 feet from the welding operation. –
- D. A fire-patrol person/fire watch will be designated to observe and monitor the area for potential fire ignition during and for at least 1 hour after the Hot Work has been completed for the day.
- E. Hot Work will be equipped with a minimum of one 20-pound or two 10-pound fire extinguishers, and a minimum of 5 gallons of water in a pressurized water tank.

12. Employee's Roles

- A. Safety is the business and responsibility of every employee and will be achieved through proper education, training, use of protective equipment and by following safety rules, industry best practices, this plan, regulations, standards, and laws.
- B. Every employee has “Stop Work Authority,” and has been trained on how and when to contact OSHA, RIDEM, EPA and their protection from retaliation under the Whistleblower Protection Act.

13. Facility Manager's Role

- A. Conducts safety meetings, audits, pre & post shift inspection to ensure compliance.
- B. Complete pre & post shift inspection includes housekeeping, storage of materials, maintenance of stormwater runoff protections, and keep all copies of inspections readily available.
- C. Evaluates employee performance, identify corrective action, and implement follow up assessments.
- D. Plans, implements, and conducts prevention care, safety, and compliance training programs.
- E. Maintains and Updates Safety Data Sheets are required and informs all employees of any changes, additions to the SDS and has them available to all employees.

14. Safety Consultant's Role

- A. Develop and implement workplace safety policies and procedures in accordance with OSHA standards, State and Federal Regulatory Agencies, and Industry Best Practices.
- B. Provide Personnel with safety-related information such as training sessions, emergency protocols, and proper use of safety equipment.
- C. Performs weekly documented safety audits. Physical inspection of all areas of scrap yard, piles, stormwater protection, storage, dumpsters, and buildings to identify health/safety or environmental concerns. The unannounced safety audits will be performed during normal business hours and the reports will be available upon request.
- D. Conduct risk assessments to minimize workplace accidents, occupational illnesses, or long-term health hazards.

FIRE DETECTION AND SUPPRESSION SYSTEMS

Advanced systems can detect fires in their initial stages, allowing for faster response and less damage. Fire detection and suppression systems protect lives by detecting fires early and providing mechanisms to suppress or control them before they cause serious harm or fatalities. These systems will prevent extensive damage to property and valuable assets by containing and extinguishing fires quickly.

1. Thermal Camera

- Thermal cameras, also known as thermal imaging cameras or infrared cameras, are effective tools for detecting fire and monitoring fire-related conditions. They work by detecting infrared radiation, which is emitted by all objects, including hot surfaces like flames and heated structures.
 - A. The Thermal camera will be installed and will monitor the scrap piles.
 - B. **Heat Detection:** Thermal cameras can detect heat signatures from fires, even though smoke, fog, or darkness. This makes them particularly useful in environments where visibility is poor.
 - C. **Early Detection:** By identifying heat sources that might indicate a fire before it becomes fully developed, thermal cameras can help in early detection and prevention of large-scale fires.
 - D. **Monitoring:** They are useful for continuous monitoring of fire-prone areas, such as industrial sites, forests, or electrical substations. They can help spot hot spots or areas of abnormal heat that might indicate a potential fire.
 - E. **Firefighting Support:** In active fire scenarios, thermal cameras can assist firefighters by identifying hot spots, detecting the spread of fire, and guiding their operations in low-visibility conditions.
 - F. **24-Hour Notification:** The camera will automatically send cell phone alerts to the owners, safety consultant and two key employees (Jose Vasquez and Jason Champagne).

2. Water Truck

- A. A safety inspection by the facility manager or facility supervisor on the water truck must be completed pre shift and post shift. It will include tires, leaks, fluids levels, and the water level in the tank must be filled.
- B. The water truck will be moved next to the scrap piles prior to the start of shift and moved away at end of shift.
- C. The water truck will be equipped and maintained with 500-gallons of water to extinguish a fire.
- D. A fire hose will be attached to the water truck and readily available to extinguish a fire after all other means have been exhausted.

Fire Extinguishers

- A. All buildings are equipped with ABC fire extinguishers.
- B. All equipment and company vehicles are equipped with ABC fire extinguishers.
- C. Three 30-pound ABC fire extinguishers are mounted outside.
- D. Two 50-pound ABC fire extinguishers will be placed next to the scrap piles and readily available to extinguish a fire.

NOTE: No fire extinguishers containing Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFA) will be allowed on site.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

The actions taken in the initial minutes of an emergency are critical. Prompt action and warnings can save lives, minimize physical damage to structures and property, and protect the environment. It is important to remain calm, speak clearly and follow steps as indicated.

1. Remember the acronym R.A.C.E

- A. **Rescue**- anyone in immediate danger
- B. **Alarm**- notify others of the fire
- C. **Contain**- close any doors, remove fuel hazards nearby if safe to do so
- D. **Extinguish**- small fires, if not leave the area and wait for the fire department

2. Notification to all employees and Providence Fire Department

- A. To “Alarm” you should immediately announce the fire on company radio and say the following:
 - ❖ Fire @ “Location” and repeat a second time
 - ❖ Example: “Fire at Light Iron Pile, Fire at Light Iron Pile”

Call at the first indication of fire or smoke — **DON'T WAIT UNTIL THE FIRE IS OUT OF CONTROL!! Do not cancel even if the fire is extinguished. Contact Providence Fire Department anytime a fire extinguisher is used to extinguish a fire, regardless of size. .**

- A. The scale house operator is to call the fire department (911). Give them the nature and location of the fire and do NOT hang up until 911 staff does first.
- B. Will notify Emergency Manager that Providence Fire Department has been notified.

3. Fire Response Roles and Responsibilities

- A. Emergency Manager (Primary: Jason Champaign, Secondary: Jose Vasquez)
 - ❖ Responsible for making sure all other roles are executed, directing as needed, and coordinating efforts of others not named in this procedure.
 - ❖ Is the person in charge and has full power to direct employees as fit.
 - ❖ Provide leadership and direction to all employees.
 - ❖ Responsible for verifying all equipment is in working order and always properly maintained.
 - ❖ It will be their responsibility to end their efforts and start evacuation.
- B. Equipment Operator
 - ❖ Excavator Operator will immediately start to eliminate fire load as directed by Emergency Manager.
- C. Scale House Operator
 - ❖ Will be responsible for evacuating customers and preventing customers from entering the property.
 - ❖ Will use overhead speaker and bull horn to notify customers.

2. Evacuation

- A. Evacuate the affected area or building through the emergency escape routes. You may collect valuables if within reasonable distance and do not interfere with evacuation. Close all doors without locking them on the way out.
- B. If you encounter a visitor, you should direct them to evacuate the area or building and direct them in the proper direction. If you encounter an individual who is disabled or having difficulty evacuating, assist them if it will not put you or the other person at greater risk.
- C. If trapped by smoke, stay low, cover your mouth with a wet cloth, stay near a window, open the window, hang something out of it to alert responders or put something in cracks around the door, and call 911 if possible.
- D. Use a fire extinguisher if possible and safe.
- E. If rescue duties are called for, the fire department will perform these duties. Please pay attention to the location and status of any person needing rescue and relay that to a supervisor, who will notify the fire department officer in charge
- F. Once out of the evacuated area, gather at the primary assembly area at the North of entrance of gate and away from buildings
- G. The Emergency Manager will conduct a brief survey of all present to determine if anyone is potentially missing or in need of assistance.
- H. Do NOT leave the assembly area for any reason until advised to do so by an emergency manager.

5. Fire Extinguisher Use

When using a fire extinguisher remember P.A.S.S.

- ❖ **Pull** the pin
- ❖ **Aim** the nozzle at the base of the fire
- ❖ **Squeeze** the handle
- ❖ **Sweep** the nozzle side to side at the base of the fire

6. After Hours Alert from Infrared Heat and Fire detection Camera

- A. The camera will send cell phone alerts to Jason Champaign, Jose Vasquez, the owners, and Matt Leonard.
- B. Jason will call the Providence Fire Department and will group text Jose, owners, Matt Leonard that the Providence Fire Department has been contacted. He will go to the location.
- C. If Jose Vasquez does not receive the text from Jason within 2 minutes then he will call the Providence Fire Department and send a group message. He will go to the location.
- D. If Matt Leonard does not receive a text from Jason or Jose within 4 minutes then he will call the Providence Fire Department and notify them of the situation. He will then send a group message and go to the location.
- E. The owners will follow the same procedure if they do not receive a text from Jason, Jose, or Matt. This response chain will be updated as and when necessary to maintain consistent oversight.

7. Notification of other Agencies

- A. Report a Spill or Release

Carol M. suspect an environmental incident such as a release of a hazardous substance - of any amount, whether on land, in water, or in the air - or if you suspect a release is imminent, please report your observations to Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management.

- ❖ All oil, hydraulic, or hazardous material to the soil, air or water that is released Must be reported to RIDEM regardless of quantity, this includes all oil, hydraulic fluid, or hazardous material. DURING NORMAL BUSINESS HOURS (Mon-Fri, 8:30-4:00) - Call (401) 537-4533
- B. Contact OSHA (Occupational Safety & Health Administration)
 - ❖ All employers are required to notify OSHA when an employee is killed on the job or suffers a work-related hospitalization, amputation, or loss of an eye.
 - ❖ A fatality must be reported within 8 hours.
 - ❖ Call the OSHA 24-hour hotline at 1-800-321-6742 (OSHA).
 - ❖ Be prepared to supply Business name; names of employees affected; location and time of the incident, brief description of the incident; contact person and phone number.
 - ❖ OSHA's Whistleblower Protection Program enforces the provisions of more than 20 federal laws protecting employees from retaliation for, among other things, raising or reporting concerns about hazards or violations of various workplace safety and health, aviation safety, commercial motor carrier, consumer product, environmental, financial reform, food safety, health insurance reform, motor vehicle safety, nuclear, pipeline, public transportation agency, railroad, maritime, securities, tax, antitrust, and anti-money laundering laws. Employees who believe that they have experienced retaliation in violation of one of these laws may file a complaint with OSHA.
- C. Contact 3rd party Environmental contractor for removal and disposal of spills as well as a contract for the unlikely needed response to any large-scale release. NEDT (800 698-1865) will be contacted to perform any chemical waste disposal.
- D. NEDT will use the proper method for handling spills which is to establish a storage area or drum for contaminated soils and disposal of these materials.

TRAINING

The Emergency Response safety training will be conducted for all employees to prepare them for dangerous and potentially life-threatening emergencies. It will include methods of emergency preparation, response, recovery, and more. The training will include intermittent practice quiz questions to prepare for a final written exam, hand-on exercises and will include different emergency scenarios. In addition to the written exam, the training will also include a practical exam to review basic near awareness knowledgeably. Training will include fire safety, emergency response, and the use of safety equipment.

1. Initial Training:

Introduce employees to emergency procedures, evacuation plans, and their roles. This will cover:

- A. Emergency exits and assembly points
- B. Use of fire extinguishers
- C. Use of Water Truck
- D. Preventing water runoff from use of the Water Truck into the river.
- E. Basic first aid and CPR
- F. Reporting procedures
- G. Evacuation procedures
- H. Reporting to government agencies.

2. Role-Specific Training:

Tailor training to distinct roles. For instance:

➤ Managers/Supervisors:

- A. How to coordinate evacuation and manage resources.
- B. Advanced response techniques and handling specific threats.
- C. Reporting Spills
- D. 40-Hour HAZWOPER (Hazardous Waste Operations & Emergency Response).
- E. 8-Hour HAZWOPER Annual Refresher
- F. First Aid/CPR
- G. 30-Hour OSHA Outreach Training

3. Fire Drills

- A. Fire Drills and emergency response exercises to ensure preparedness and identify areas for improvement.
- B. Fire Drills will be conducted on the first Thursday of each month.
- C. The Safety Consultant will provide emergency scenarios and document observations.
- D. Corrective actions and retraining will be conducted immediately.
- E. Provide fire extinguisher and incipient stage fire response training during fire drills
- F. Live practice with an extinguisher will be conducted during fire drills.
- G. Providence Fire Department will be invited to participate and observe in quarterly fire drills.

4. New employees

- Fire prevention and fire response activities are included in all new employee orientation sessions.
- Hazard recognition and fire inspection training are included in all new employee orientation.

5. Continuous Education:

- ❖ **Continuous Education:** Offer quarterly refresher courses and updates on emergency procedures regularly.
- ❖ **Adapt to Changes:** Update training to reflect any changes in workplace layout, technology, or new risks.

6. Promote a Safety Culture

- ❖ **Encourage Participation:** Foster an environment where employees feel comfortable reporting hazards and participating in training.
- ❖ **Recognize Efforts:** Acknowledge and reward employees who actively engage in safety practices and training

KEY CONTACTS

This list is maintained in all offices and in Scale House.

Providence Fire	First Responders	911 or Non-Emergency: 401-243-6050
Providence Police	First Responders	911 or Non-Emergency: (401) 272-3121
Jared This	Owner	(617) 592-1752
Matthew Leonard	Safety Consultant	(401) 601-1454
Jason Champagne	Manager	(401) 556-7030
Jose Vasques	Supervisor	(401) 660-0591

RECORD KEEPING

All written records will be maintained as part of a thorough record-keeping process. The records will be stored on the cloud for backup and readily available for any regulatory agency.

These include:

- A. Description, times, dates, and attendants of all training programs.
- B. Description, times, dates, and attendants of all fire drills.
- C. Records of any spills and reports.
- D. Inspections and corrective actions conducted by the Safety Consultant.
- E. Pre-Shift & Post-Shift daily inspections
- F. Fire extinguishers yearly inspections by 3rd party vendor.
- G. Recommendations and corrective actions as instructed by any regulatory agency.
- H. Prohibited items that were found in scrap file or on site and the shipping manifest of the vendor that removed/transported the items from the location.

PLAN REVIEW

This plan will be reviewed and updated quarterly and as needed to address any changes in the facility and operations or equipment. This plan is a living document, to ensure that it remains effective, accurate, and relevant, which is crucial for maintaining an important level of preparedness and safety in our organization.

1. Regular Updates

- A. **Scheduled Reviews:** Quarterly reviews with all employee's feedback, fire department or other regulatory agency suggestions to our plan.
- B. **Event-Driven Updates:** Revise the document following actual emergencies, drills, or exercises to incorporate lessons learned and improvements. This plan will be updated if there are any changes in the workplace, such as innovative technology, equipment, processes, or changes in staff.

2. Documentation Management

- A. **Change Log:** Maintain a log of all changes made to the document, including who made the changes and why.
- B. **Review Process:** All updates must be approved by Safety Consultant and ownership before being finalized.

Date:	Author	Reason for revision	Name
8/2/2024	Matt Leonard	Draft	
8/6/2024	Matt Leonard	Feedback for RIDEM and AG office	Revision 1