Safety Tip of the Week
COVID 19-Danger of Mixing Household Cleaners

AFRH Safety Office reminds you the CDC recommends routine cleaning of surfaces to limit the spread of COVID19. People should also keep in mind the dangers posed by mixing household cleaners.

Reminder of the dangers of mixing household cleaners

People are very concerned right now about the health ramifications of COVID19 and may not be thinking about the dangers of mixing cleaners. But Chemicals you use in your home can be dangerous to your health and the environment. Here is a quick reference list of some combinations of chemicals that can either create toxic fumes or be highly corrosive which could potentially be deadly combinations:

‡ **Bleach + vinegar = chlorine gas.** This can lead to coughing, breathing problems, burning and watery eyes. Chlorine gas and water also combine to make hydrochloric and nypochlorous acids.

‡ **Bleach + ammonia = chloramine.** This can cause shortness of breath and chest pain.

‡ **Bleach + rubbing alcohol = chloroform.** This is highly toxic.

‡ **Hydrogen peroxide + vinegar = peracetic/peroxyacetic acid.** This can be highly corrosive.

To keep your family safe, follow these safety tips when you use, store or throw them out.

‡ Follow the instructions on the label when you use and store household chemicals.

‡ Don't mix products. This can cause deadly gases or cause a fire.

‡ Store products in their original containers.

‡ Store anything that can catch on fire away from your home.

‡ Only fill portable gasoline containers outdoors in an airy area. Make sure to place the container on the ground when you fill it.

‡ Never store materials that can cause a fire in the sun or near an open flame or heat source.

‡ Store these materials out of the reach of children and pets.

‡ Use safety locks and guardrails on shelves and cabinets when you store materials. This will prevent them from falling or tipping.

‡ Wear gloves or goggles when you use these materials.