SB 704 and the Oregon Dental
Best Management Practices
Program

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Introduction

- Background
- Mercury Issue
- Amalgam separators
- Team players
- Collection events
A Little Background

- Clean Water Act adopted in 1972
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) created
- EPA tasked with reducing pollution and toxins in air, water and soil
- EPA delegates this responsibility to individual states
More Background

- In Oregon, this responsibility belongs to Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
- DEQ deals directly with various business sectors to address pollution and toxic regulation and reduction
- One of MANY materials addressed is Mercury
More Background

• Revision of local wastewater treatment plant discharge limits led to development of program
• Silver was initial pollutant of concern
• No Hg exceedences
• Did not want to permit dental facilities
BMP Goals

• Ensure proper collection and recycling of Hg in dental facilities
• Provide clear and concise information regarding handling wastes to dental facility staff
• Provide scientifically sound guidance to dental facility staff regarding waste reduction
Mercury Sources

- Power generation (53%)
- Waste combustion (34%)
- All other sources, including manufactures and consumers (13%)
- Dentistry (<1%)
Amalgam Separators

- SB704/HB 3611 requires all existing dental facilities in Oregon to install one
  - 1/1/2010 if compliant w/BMPs
  - 9/1/2008 if non compliant w/BMPs
- ADA buyer’s checklist
- New facilities and significant office remodels required to install at construction
BMP Program Elements

- MOA
- Multiple team players
- Initial voluntary participation
- Education/Outreach
- Certificate of compliance
- Follow up with non-compliant facilities
ODA Assistance

- Presentations to member societies
- Facilitate statewide implementation
- SB 704/HB 3611
- Articles and outreach
- BMP info on ODA website
- POTW training
- Dental schools
- Collection events
Future Expectations

- New TMDL for Willamette River
- More collection events
- Dental amalgam issue
- Follow up on the installation of separators and their maintenance
Hg Collection Events
Bring Me Your Amalgam

- Began in 2004
- Conducted in conjunction with annual ODA conference
- Open to all Oregon and SW Washington dentists
- Collection event held across from convention center
Hg Collection

- Agency contributions to help defray collection and disposal costs
- Dentists pay $20 fee
- METRO runs event
- Staffing assistance provided by local agencies
- ODA promoted
- I Recycle ribbon for participants – feel good
Hg Collected

- Bulk Hg
- Scrap amalgam
- Filters
- Capsules
- Thermometers
- Other items
- TOTAL: 3500 lbs.
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