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# News Release

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## **WARNING—SMOKE DETECTORS REQUIRE PROPER DISPOSAL** FREE HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION EVENTS OFFER ENVIRONMENTALLY SAFE DISPOSAL

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CHARLOTTE, Mich. — **EVERYTHING BUT THE KITCHEN SINK!**

The smoke detector in your house is a very important tool to keep the family safe. If ever it needs replacing, special care is required for proper disposal. The reason being a tiny amount of a radioactive element called americium-241.

But do not fear, this radioactive material only poses a threat if a smoke detector is played with. Eaton County residents have two ways to properly dispose of old smoke detectors. One of those options is to contact the manufacturer which can be located on the back of the unit. The company will accept it for free and remove the radioactive material safely.

Another option is to bring it along with any oil-based paint, expired medications, fluorescent light bulbs, and lawn chemicals to the next Household Hazardous Waste Collection event, held three times each year in Eaton County. Any quantity of Household Hazardous Waste is accepted **FREE OF CHARGE**.

Household Hazardous Waste collection events, organized by the Eaton County Department of Resource Recovery, offer residents a **FREE** way to dispose of everything else from acids and bases to wood preservatives and everything in between. Electronics such as computer components, VCRs, laptops, phones, answering machines and televisions are accepted for a low-cost per-pound fee.

**FREE HHW and Low Cost Electronics Waste Collection Events** will occur on July 13 in Charlotte and September 14 in Vermontville, this year. To reserve your appointment, please contact the Department of Resource Recovery at (517)543-3686. A **FREE** Mercury Thermometer Exchange will take place during the collection and fun freebies will be available for children.

Information on these and other collections is available on the Department's website where the Spring edition of the Department newsletter, The Eaton County Resource, is located as well. Go to [www.eatoncounty.org](http://www.eatoncounty.org), and select "Resource Recovery" from the menu on the left. And for resources on options to avoid landfilling, always feel free to contact the Department.

For more information, contact Lisa Lafferty, Resource Recovery Coordinator at (517) 543-3686.

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