

# NACWA 2012 NATIONAL PRETREATMENT WORKSHOP

“The End is Near: Pretreatment for  
Funeral Homes”

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May 9, 2012

## PRETREATMENT FOR FUNERAL HOMES OVERVIEW



National Funeral Directors Association  
Funeral Service Overview  
What Funeral Directors Do  
Environmental Aspects of Funeral  
Service, including Pretreatment

## PRETREATMENT FOR FUNERAL HOMES

### About NFDA



- World's leading funeral service association
- Headquartered in Brookfield, WI
- Advocacy office on Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C.
- Worldwide source of expertise and professional resources for all facets of funeral service
- Supports members in providing the families they serve with meaningful end of life services at the highest level of excellence and integrity

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## PRETREATMENT FOR FUNERAL HOMES

### About Funeral Service



- Number of funeral homes in the US: 19,680
- Number of NFDA members: 18,310 individuals/  
9,972 locations
- Funeral home size by number of cases:
  - Less than 150 cases 60 %
  - 151-350 cases 29.1%
  - 351-500 cases 5.2%
  - 501-1000 cases 3.9%
  - More than 1001 cases 1.4%

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## PRETREATMENT FOR FUNERAL HOMES

### About Funeral Service



- Employment: funeral homes employed 102,877 workers in 2007
- 2010 annual median pay for funeral directors: \$54,330 or \$26.12/hour
- 2010 number of jobs: 29,300
- Job outlook 2010 – 2020: 18% increase, average for all occupations
- Educational level attained:
  - HS or some college: 18%
  - Associate's degree: 33%
  - Bachelor's degree: 44%
  - Master's/PhD 5%

## PRETREATMENT FOR FUNERAL HOMES

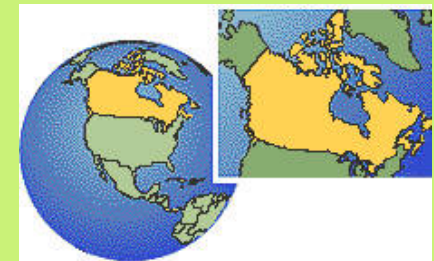
### About Funeral Service

## Funeral Service Trends

## Cremation Facts



1. Projected 2015 U.S. Rate: 46.57%
2. 2010 U.S. Cremation Rate: 40.62%
  - 2005: 32.13%
  - 2000: 26.17%
  - 1995: 21.11%
  - 1990: 17.13%
  - 1985: 13.86%
  - 1980: 9.72%
  - 1975: 6.55%
  - 1970: 4.59%
  - 1965: 3.87%
  - 1960: 3.56%
3. 2010 Canadian Cremation Rate: 58.17%



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## PRETREATMENT FOR FUNERAL HOMES About Funeral Service

### Funeral Service Trends

### Cremation Facts



### 2010 Top 10 U.S. States by Percentage of Deaths Cremated

1. Nevada – 73.46%
2. Washington – 70.96%
3. Oregon – 69.40%
4. Hawaii – 68.96%
5. Montana - 65.66%
6. Maine -- 63.40%
7. Colorado - 63.27%
8. Arizona - 62.10%
9. New Hampshire - 61.54%
10. Alaska - 61.13%



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## PRETREATMENT FOR FUNERAL HOMES

### About Funeral Service

#### Funeral Service Trends

#### Cremation Facts



#### 2010 Bottom 10 U.S. States by Percentage of Deaths Cremated

1. Mississippi - 13.84%
2. Alabama - 17.18%
3. Kentucky - 19.24%
4. Louisiana - 21.18%
5. West Virginia - 23.17%
6. Indiana - 25.68%
7. Tennessee - 27.50%
8. Arkansas - 27.72%
9. Utah - 28.41%
10. South Dakota - 28.71%





## PRETREATMENT FOR FUNERAL HOMES

### About Funeral Service

#### Funeral Service Trends



- NFDA's Green Funeral Practices Certificate Program
- Formaldehyde-free Embalming
- Green Burial

## PRETREATMENT FOR FUNERAL HOMES

### About Funeral Service



### What Funeral Directors Do

- Funeral directors are caregivers and administrators:
  - Make transportation arrangements for the body
  - Complete all necessary paperwork
  - Implement the choices the family has made for memorialization and final disposition of the body
- Funeral directors are listeners, advisors and supporters:
  - Assist the bereaved in coping with death
  - Trained to answer questions about grief
  - Recommend sources of professional help for those who are having difficulty coping

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## PRETREATMENT FOR FUNERAL HOMES

### About Funeral Service

#### What Funeral Directors Do

##### Embalming



- Preserves and sanitizes the body
- Retards the decomposition process
- Makes it possible to lengthen the time between death and final disposition
- Most states do not require embalming – although embalming may be required when
  - Death was caused by a reportable contagious disease
  - Remains are to be transported from one state to another
  - Final disposition does not occur within a prescribed number of hours

## PRETREATMENT FOR FUNERAL HOMES

### Environmental Aspects of Funeral Service



- Funeral directors are good environmental citizens
- Funeral directors live above the shop and in the community they serve
- NFDA educates, trains, and conducts studies so that funeral directors know how to be good environmental citizens



## PRETREATMENT FOR FUNERAL HOMES

### Environmental Aspects of Funeral Service

Top Ten Practices for a funeral director to be a good environmental citizen

<http://www.nfda.org/articles-green/article/1465-.html>



Photo courtesy of Piedmont Technical College

10. Be familiar with and have on hand NFDA's environmental reports
9. Be informed about the products used in the funeral home
8. Be aware of the environmentally friendly products on the market and make wise choices about product substitution
7. Know the nature and character of each of the waste types produced at the funeral home
6. Follow NFDA's Medical Waste Protocol
5. Avoid generating RCRA-regulated "hazardous waste"
4. Use formaldehyde and phenol properly
3. Do not pour chemicals, wastewaters or other wastes into floor drains or onto the ground
2. Dispose of funeral home wastewater properly
1. Be familiar with and follow each of NFDA's Recommended Best-Management and Waste Minimization Practices

## PRETREATMENT FOR FUNERAL HOMES Environmental Aspects of Funeral Service

### NFDA's Wastestream Audit

- NFDA's initial environmental study, completed in 1995
- In depth review of MSDS's of the products that funeral directors use
- First ever evaluation of the composition of wastewater produced by funeral homes
- Key finding – wastewater can be safely discharged to POTW:
  - Volume of wastewater is inconsequential, when compared to POTW inflow
  - On days when an embalming is performed, average discharge
    - 632 gallons daily over 24 hours
    - 120 gallons from embalming



Photo courtesy of Piedmont  
Technical College

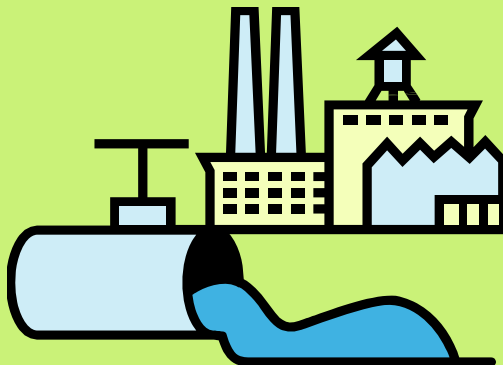
## PRETREATMENT FOR FUNERAL HOMES

### Environmental Aspects of Funeral Service

#### NFDA's Wastestream Audit



- Wastewater components: water, residues of the preservative compounds used in embalming, bodily fluids, sanitary wastewater from other funeral home activities and possibly from a private residence



- Primary chemical constituents of the wastewater, formaldehyde, methanol, and phenol, will be readily biodegraded

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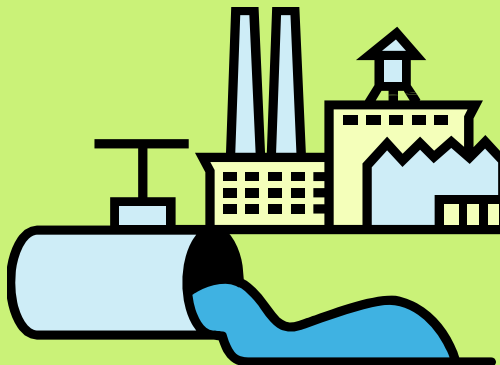
## PRETREATMENT FOR FUNERAL HOMES

### Environmental Aspects of Funeral Service



### NFDA's Wastestream Audit Findings

- Impact on POTW from funeral home discharge will be minimal to negligible
- Primary chemical constituents, formaldehyde, methanol, and phenol, will be readily biodegraded
- No hazardous waste
- Without preservative residues, wastewater similar to domestic wastewater



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