

**Fairfield County Office of Emergency Management  
And  
Homeland Security**

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To: Tom Moe, Director  
From: Scott Baker Hazardous Materials Coordinator  
Subject: Fuel Oil spill/leak  
Date: February 2, 2004

On Monday February 9, 2004 I received a call from Chief Terry Gill of the Bloom Twp Fire Dept. Chief Gill informed me that he had received a call from a resident living across from 7450 Lithopolis Rd. that fuel oil had been spilled in a common driveway shared by three to four homes. The driveway turned out to be a lane or access road off Lithopolis Rd. that indeed was shared by the homes.

The resident informed the chief that the fuel was spilled or released the week prior while the fuel tank at 7450 was being filled by Lancaster Oil. Upon inspection of the area even a week later a strong odor was observed and residue of the fuel in areas that water was running from the melting snow. We traced the flow down the slope of the driveway away from 7450 and the fuel had presence all the way down the hill and across Lithopolis Rd.

While on the scene, I contacted Lancaster Oil to hopefully gain some answers and to find out at what stage the cleanup was in. Upon calling I talked to the secretary and left a message for Jim Hopkins the sales manager. The secretary was very evasive and did not answer my questions completely so I left a message for the Mr. Hopkins to phone me. In the mean time I found out that Lancaster Oil is owned by Circleville Oil. It was near the end of the day and Mr. Hopkins had not phoned me back and I decide to call Circleville Oil.

At Circleville Oil I talked to Mr. Norm Wilson and advised him of the situation and he was surprised that he had not heard about it and advised me that he would have his safety man look into it and would get back to me.

The next day I received a phone call from Mr. Hopkins letting me know that the spill was less than 25 gallons and assured me that they had cleaned it up to the best of their ability. He also informed me that Kevin the driver of the delivery truck put down 2 bags of absorbent at the time of the spill. Mr. Hopkins could not tell me how the leak/release happened and was again very evasive with the information.

The next day I was talking with Bill Brobst and Bill suggested, because of the timeline I call Ohio EPA and have someone look into it further. I also received a call from Mr. Hopkins letting me know that the company safety man was out to inspect it. The safety man used a liquid detergent mixture and water and sprayed the entire area down and that applied approximately 8 bags of absorbent. The same day that this took place, the chief stopped to see if anything had been done as a follow up and he informed me that he did not see any evidence of absorbent or any type of clean up.

That is when I call Ohio EPA and talked to Wes Drake. Wes was given the whole story and was surprised at the clean up method. Wes did call me from the site and did inform me that he did have jurisdiction on this spill because it did involve a waterway, namely the Hocking River.

Wes informed me that he was giving Lancaster Oil/Circleville Oil the opportunity to clean up the mess properly and informed the residences that the spill affected of their rites with respect to legal action against the company.

Wes was to call me if he had any other information.