

ITEM	25
MANAGER'S REPORT NO.	71
COUNCIL MEETING	94/12/19

TO: ACTING CITY MANAGER 1994 DECEMBER 16

FROM: MEDICAL HEALTH OFFICER

SUBJECT: CHLORINE GAS LEAK AT CANADIANOXY CHEMICALS, NORTH VANCOUVER

PURPOSE: TO INFORM COUNCIL REGARDING THE RELEASE OF CHLORINE GAS LEAK AT CANADIANOXY CHEMICALS LOCATED IN NORTH VANCOUVER.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT this report be received for information purposes.

REPORT

1.0 INTRODUCTION

On 1994 December 14 at approximately 09:18 h., there was a chlorine gas leak at Canadianoxy Chemicals located in North Vancouver.

According to staff discussion with Canadianoxy Chemicals official on 1994 December 15, the chlorine gas leak was a result of small hole in the process tank containing liquid chlorine and solvent. The liquid chlorine, released in the form of a gas, was discharged into the air at a rate of 5 liters / minute. The release was estimated to last for a few minutes. Other than odour to neighbours in close proximity, there was no danger outside the property line of Canadianoxy.

Soon after the chlorine gas release, the North Vancouver Fire Department, Police Department and the Provincial Emergency Program were contacted by Canadianoxy Chemicals. The plant was evacuated and the immediate residential neighbourhood was alerted by the use of the Communication Alert System.

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2.0 NOTIFICATION OF NEIGHBOURING MUNICIPALITIES

At present there is no formal protocol of notifying the neighbouring Burrard Inlet municipalities when events of this size occur. For that reason, none of the City Departments in Burnaby were notified. In view of the quantity, wind direction and dispersion factor only local residents were notified. To date the Plant Manager has no knowledge of any hospitalization due to the chlorine leak.

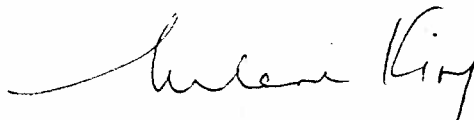
In the case of a major spill incident the Provincial Emergency Program would initiate a protocol to notify all municipalities that would be or could be affected.

Staff will be discussing notification protocols with the North Shore to look at a process that would provide early notification to the City of Burnaby of spill incidents that could be of potential negative impact on Burnaby residents.

3.0 CONCLUSIONS

Canadianoxy Chemicals is presently determining the cause of small hole in their process tank.

Staff will initiate discussions with the City of North Vancouver and the North Shore District regarding notification protocols. Discussions will take place early in the new year. Council will be appropriately apprised of these discussions.



Arlene King, M.D., C.C.F.P., M.H.Sc., F.R.C.P. (C)
MEDICAL HEALTH OFFICER

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cc: Director Administrative &
Community Services
Chief Environmental Health Officer