

TO: CITY MANAGER 1994 APRIL 27

FROM: MEDICAL HEALTH OFFICER

SUBJECT: NATIONAL CONCRETE ACCESSORIES,
3819 STILL CREEK AVENUE, BURNABY, B.C.,
CHEMICAL SPILL ON 1994 APRIL 07

PURPOSE: TO ADVISE COUNCIL ON:

1. THE DETAILS OF A CHEMICAL SPILL AT NATIONAL CONCRETE ACCESSORIES, 3819 STILL CREEK AVENUE, BURNABY ON 1994 APRIL 07;
2. THE RECURRENCE OF A SECOND SPILL AT THE SAME SITE;
AND
3. MITIGATIVE ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN TO PREVENT SIMILAR SPILLS FROM RECURRING AT THE SITE IN THE FUTURE.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT this report be received for information purposes.

REPORT

1.0 INTRODUCTION

At the regular Council Meeting on 1994 April 18, Council was advised of a chemical spill that had occurred on 1994 April 07 at 3819 Still Creek Avenue, Burnaby, B.C. It was further indicated that staff from the Health Department and the B.C. Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks (BCMOELP) had responded to the spill and that a second spill recurred at the same site two days later.

Arising from the discussion, a motion was adopted directing staff to prepare a report on the above chemical spill(s) including any actions to be taken to prevent similar spills from recurring at the same site in the future.

The following report provides Council with information on the details of the chemical spill at National Concrete Accessories and outlines the required mitigative and preventive measures to be taken by the owners of National Concrete Accessories.

2.0 CHEMICAL SPILL AT NATIONAL CONCRETE ACCESSORIES, 3819 STILL CREEK AVENUE, BURNABY, B.C.

On 1994 April 07 at 18:30h., Environmental Health Services of the Health Department received a complaint regarding a chemical spill at National Concrete Accessories, 3819 Still Creek Avenue, Burnaby, B.C.

Staff immediately attended the said site and noted black coloured liquid escaping from a previously bermed area in the outside parking lot of 3819 Still Creek Avenue and entering the parking lot catch basin. As the business was closed and there was no one present at the site, staff contacted the owners of the business and notified the BCMOELP Provincial Emergency Program. Concurrently, measures were taken to prevent further discharge of the black coloured liquid from the bermed area.

According to discussions with the owners of National Concrete Accessories, approximately two gallons of PROZITE L73 (a product used as admixture for concrete to plasticize and maintain strength) had been spilled earlier when a company employee accidentally ruptured a container with a fork-lift. The company acted immediately to contain the spill, but did not notify the appropriate authorities. In order to recover the spilled material from the catch basin thereby preventing any direct impacts on the nearby Still Creek, National Concrete Accessories was immediately ordered to pump out the catch basin including the product in the bermed area and store it in a secured area at the said site while arranging for its disposal. The complainant had been informed of staff's finding and remedial actions taken.

With respect to the recurrence of a similar spill at the said site two days later, Health Department and BCMOELP staff are not aware of a subsequent chemical spill. In discussing this with Mr. Lyal G. Riley, Regional Manager, National Concrete Accessories, he indicated that there was no subsequent spill at the site.

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3.0 MITIGATIVE ACTIONS REQUIRED TO BE UNDERTAKEN TO PREVENT SIMILAR CHEMICAL SPILLS FROM RECURRING AT NATIONAL CONCRETE ACCESSORIES, 3819 STILL CREEK AVENUE, BURNABY, B.C. IN THE FUTURE.

Subsequent to the said incident on 1994 April 07, staff of the Health Department and the BCMOELP met with officials of National Concrete Accessories on 1994 April 15 to discuss improvements on the handling of products and wastes at the site and the development of a comprehensive Emergency Response Contingency Plan for the site. A formal written response from National Concrete Accessories on the above is required by 1994 May 06.

4.0 CONCLUSION

Appropriate measures were employed at National Concrete Accessories on 1994 April 07 to recover spilled chemicals from the catch basin and prevented any impacts on the nearby Still Creek. While staff from the Health Department and the BCMOELP were not aware of a subsequent spill at the same site two days later, National Concrete Accessories has been required to improve their product and waste handling practices and to also develop and implement a comprehensive Emergency Response Contingency Plan for the site.


for Arlene King, M.D., C.C.F.P., M.H.Sc., F.R.C.P.(C)
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TS/AK/js

cc: () Director Administrative
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() Chief Environmental Health Officer

