Community Safety Fact Sheet on West Price Hill Gasoline Leak

What Happened?

- Strong odors were noticed by residents in the vicinity of West 8th Street and Pedretti Avenue on December 24, and the Cincinnati Fire Department and the Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati (MSD) were called.
- MSD began flushing the sewers on December 24. On December 25, MSD began looking for the source of the odors, and the Cincinnati Fire Department began door-to-door visits of properties in the neighborhood.
- On December 26, the Cincinnati Fire Department ordered the Fast Stop gas station at 4501 W. 8th Street to close its gas pumps and empty its gasoline storage tanks.
- About 360 gallons of gasoline leaked from a fuel line at the Fast Stop gas station.
- Fumes from the leaked gasoline entered the public sewer system and other underground trenches and entered area homes and businesses.

Response to the Leak

The Bureau of Underground Storage Tank Regulations (BUSTR) is performing oversight of the investigation and cleanup of the leak, and the Cincinnati Fire Department is in charge of emergency response (addressing the immediate threat caused by the leaked gasoline). Note: BUSTR oversees the work done by an environmental consultant hired by the gas station owner.

Efforts to date have focused on stopping the leak (which is the source of the fumes), recovering the leaked gasoline, and sampling the air in nearby homes and businesses. **Indoor air quality has been significantly improved and fumes in the sewers have been greatly reduced due to these efforts.**

Emergency Response

- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Ohio EPA, MSD, and the Cincinnati Health Department are assisting the fire department with emergency response. Emergency response activities include:
  - Pumping out a mixture of gasoline and water from the underground storage tank area using a vacuum truck. About 100 gallons of gasoline has already been recovered. This action is required by BUSTR.
  - Continuing to flush sewers in the area to minimize gasoline fumes.
  - Using the U.S. EPA START Team to take air samples inside homes in the impacted area.

Investigation and Cleanup

- BUSTR is working with the owner of the gas station to determine the cause of the leak and oversee the investigation, evaluation, and cleanup. This could take weeks to months, or longer, to complete.
- The gas station owner has hired a qualified environmental consultant, ATC, to assist with immediate corrective actions and ensure the evaluation and cleanup is done in accordance with BUSTR regulations.
The gas station owner has a Certificate of Coverage (similar to insurance) that covers individual leaks up to $1 million per incident.

**Community Safety**

- The levels of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) inside properties and the sewer have significantly dropped since air monitoring began on December 26. VOCs are the chemicals in the gas that evaporate, causing the fumes.
- Streets impacted by fumes include portions of West 8th Street, Overlook Avenue, Pedretti Avenue, Hermosa Avenue, Carnation Drive, Cappel Drive, and Schulte Drive.
- The U.S. EPA has been taking air samples inside area homes and businesses. The lab results should be available by Tuesday, January 5. The Cincinnati Health Department will receive the data and consult with the Ohio Department of Health and the property owners about the results.
- The U.S. EPA and the Cincinnati Fire Department have also been taking air samples (using real-time monitors) inside local homes and businesses, and MSD has been taking air samples in sewer manholes. **If you would like your property sampled, please contact Deb Leonard at (513) 316-7510 to coordinate the sampling.**
- The properties with the highest readings do not have traps in their floor drains. These properties were instructed to have a plumber block the floor drains and update the internal plumbing.
- Drinking water has not been impacted by this leak. Greater Cincinnati Water Works (GCWW) has sampled drinking water at a home on Pedretti and a business on West 8th Street. If you have questions about your drinking water, please contact GCWW at (513) 591-7700.
- If you are continuing to experience fumes in your home, please take the following actions:
  - Stop using ignition sources such as candles, matches, gas stoves, cigarettes, lighters, and any other flaming devices.
  - Run water in basement floor drains to reduce fumes and odors in the home. If the drains don’t have a trap (U-shaped portion of the pipe), they should be plugged to stop odors from entering homes.
  - Crack windows to reduce fumes that may cause irritation
- **If you have health-related questions, please contact the Cincinnati Drug & Poison Control Center at (513) 636-5111. If you have an immediate health concern, or are experiencing symptoms such as headaches, dizziness, loss of coordination, euphoria, nausea, or disorientation, please contact your medical doctor or call 911.**
- We will continue to monitor the situation as it evolves and keep the public informed to ensure their health and safety.

**For More Information**

- Information will continue to be disseminated by press releases, the Next Door community app for West Price Hill, and the West Price Hill Community Council’s Facebook page.
- **If you do not have access to the Internet or have additional questions, please contact Deb Leonard, MSD, at (513) 316-7510.** MSD is serving as the single point-of-contact for community questions.