

Cooley, James

From: Chambers, Kevin
Sent: Tuesday, August 27, 2019 1:13 PM
To: Dunn, Richard; Curry, Lauren; Hays, Karen; Kuoh, Dika; Cooley, James
Subject: FW: AJC media request: July 31, 2019 Sterigenics evacuation

From: Lutz, Meris (CMG-Atlanta) [<mailto:Meris.Lutz@ajc.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, August 27, 2019 1:11 PM
To: Chambers, Kevin; 'harris-young.dawn@epa.gov'
Subject: RE: AJC media request: July 31, 2019 Sterigenics evacuation

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

We've obtained an email from Elbert Sabb, operations manager at Sterigenics, which was sent to staff on July 31, 2019. It reads, in part, "I wanted to inform each of you that we experienced an area evacuation at approximately 3:14 a.m. this morning. An investigation took place at this time and it was found that a drum that was recently removed from CH #10 was leaking from the gas valve. There was a drum change that occurred on this chamber about an hour earlier. During this drum change, the drum gas valve was not closed completely ...once the drum valve was properly closed and the plug was inserted as required, this situation was corrected and there was no longer a leak. The levels that were seen in the facility at the time dissipated as well."

This email was sent at 4:57 p.m. on Wed 7-31-19

It does not say how much was leaked, or if the total amount leaked was known. Is this an incident that should have been reported? If so, to whom should it have been reported and when? Does EPD rely solely on self reporting for leaks? How does EPD respond to resident concerns about self reporting?

Thanks. My deadline is 4 p.m.

Meris Lutz
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution
mlutz@ajc.com
Cell: 404-578-1919

From: Chambers, Kevin <Kevin.Chambers@dnr.ga.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, August 27, 2019 12:46 PM
To: Lutz, Meris (CMG-Atlanta) <Meris.Lutz@ajc.com>; 'harris-young.dawn@epa.gov' <harris-young.dawn@epa.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: AJC media request: July 31, 2019 Sterigenics evacuation

Meris,
No such incident was reported to Georgia EPD, but we will look into it. Thanks.

From: Lutz, Meris (CMG-Atlanta) [<mailto:Meris.Lutz@ajc.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, August 27, 2019 11:32 AM

To: Chambers, Kevin; 'harris-young.dawn@epa.gov'
Subject: AJC media request: July 31, 2019 Sterigenics evacuation

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Kevin & Dawn,

I am following up on this request from yesterday. Do EPA or EPD have any record of a possible leak and area evacuation of the Sterigenics Smyrna plant on July 31, 2019? Thank you

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