To: Nold, Eric[Nold.Eric@epa.gov]
From: Buchholz, Ken
Sent: Fri 2/3/2017 9:45:15 PM
Subject: FW: Kansas Spill Clips 10/21/16

From: Carey, Curtis
Sent: Friday, October 21, 2016 12:09 PM
To: Bryan, David <Bryan.David@epa.gov>; Brees, Angela <Brees.Angela@epa.gov>; Buchholz, Ken <Buchholz.Kenneth@epa.gov>; Peterson, Mary <Peterson.Mary@epa.gov>; Williams, David (R7) <Williams.Dave@epa.gov>; Hague, Mark <Hague.Mark@epa.gov>; Chu, Ed <Chu.Ed@epa.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Kansas Spill Clips 10/21/16

FYSA: in contact with HQ OPA. They are monitoring.

All media inquiries are being managed by David Bryan from REOC.

Sent from my iPhone
Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** "Music, Madelena" <music.madelena@epa.gov>
> **Date:** October 21, 2016 at 11:42:31 AM CDT
> **To:** "Benenati, Frank" <benenati.frank@epa.gov>, "Valentine, Julia" <Valentine.Julia@epa.gov>, "Harrison, Melissa" <Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov>, "Jones, Enesta" <Jones.Enesta@epa.gov>, "Lee, Monica" <Lee.Monica@epa.gov>, "Hull, George" <Hull.George@epa.gov>, "Nowotarski, Allison" <nowotarski.allison@epa.gov>, "Grantham, Nancy" <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>, "Conger, Nick" <Conger.Nick@epa.gov>, "Carey, Curtis" <Carey.Curtis@epa.gov>, AO OPA Media Relations <AO_OPA_Media_Relations@epa.gov>
> **Cc:** "Music, Madelena" <music.madelena@epa.gov>
> **Subject: Kansas Spill Clips 10/21/16**
>
> *Below: Reuters, CNN, ABC, AP (via ABC), Patch, KSHB Kansas City, Kansas City Star*
>
> **Reuters**
> http://www.reuters.com/article/us-kansas-chemicalspill-idUSKCN12L1ZG
> **Chemical spill in Kansas town spurs call for residents to stay indoors**
> By Timothy Mclaughlin and Ben Klayman 10/21/16 11:54am
>
> City and county officials advised residents in the town of Atchison, Kansas, on Friday to stay indoors after an unknown chemical was spilled at a facility in the town.
>
> "There has been an incident. Until further notice, close all your windows, turn off your air and furnaces, and stay indoors," the city of Atchison said in a statement on social media.
>
> City officials could not be reached for further comment. It was unclear what type of chemical was spilled.
>
> The city's post said the incident occurred at "MGP," without giving further details, but MGP Ingredients, a supplier of distilled spirits and specialty wheat protein and starches, is located in the town, according to the company's website.
>
> The company could not immediately be reached for comment.
>
> The county's emergency management division described the incident as a chemical spill in a separate post.
>
> Susan Myers, superintendent for Atchison Public Schools, which has about 1,800 students and 700 staff members, said in a telephone interview the town's schools were being evacuated.

"They have had us move them to the airport and now they're having us move to a different location," she said of emergency officials' advice about the students.

"Area school districts are sending buses to help us. It's a moment-to-moment situation and we are moving our children to safety."

CNN
http://www.cnn.com/2016/10/21/us/kansas-atchison-chemical-spill/
Chemical spill in Atchison, Kansas, spurs warnings from authorities
By Catherine E. Schoichet 10/21/16 12:20pm

(CNN)A chemical spill in Atchison, Kansas, on Friday sent a plume of fog into the air and spurred warnings from officials.

On social media, emergency officials told residents to seek shelter and stay inside.
"If you are not in Atchison, please stay out of town," Atchison County Emergency Management said on Facebook.

The spill occurred at MGP Ingredients, officials said. Headquartered in Atchison, MGP describes itself as a company where distilled alcohol products and food ingredients are produced.

Atchison is located in northeast Kansas, about 20 miles from Leavenworth and 40 miles from Kansas City.

Authorities have not released details about what kind of chemical leaked.

On Facebook, the city advised residents that two chemicals had been inadvertently mixed together, causing a reaction.
"The gas is now dissipating and the situation is improving," the city said.

Images from CNN affiliate KSHB showed a thick gray plume clouding the air.

Students and faculty from Benedictine College evacuated when officials got word of the leak, spokesman Steve Johnson told CNN.
"We used our athletic buses and people carpooled in their personal vehicles," Johnson said, estimating that a couple thousand people were among those who had evacuated to a state park northwest of the city.

So far, Johnson said, no students have reported feeling sick as a result of the leak.

Alec Convery said he was in drawing class at the school when teachers told them to evacuate. He drove with his brother and a friend to St. Joseph Missouri, about 20 miles away.

"On the way out, we could see a huge cloud of what looked like fog. ... At first I was very scared and didn't know what to do, but now I am more relaxed," he said.

Citing Atchison's city manager, CNN affiliate KMBC reported that the leak had been mitigated.

ABC
http://abcnews.go.com/Health/residents-shelter-place-chemical-spill-kansas/story?id=42968039
Residents Shelter in Place After Chemical Spill in Kansas
By Gilliam Mohney 10/21/16 11:55am

Residents of Atchinson County, Kansas, were told to shelter in place this morning after a chemical spill in the area forced evacuations and sent several individuals to the hospital.

The spill, which happened shortly after 8 a.m. local time, covers a 4-block radius near Main Street, according to officials from the Atchinson County Emergency Management Agency.

"At 8:02 this morning two chemicals were inadvertently mixed together at MGP[Ingredients, a food products supplier]," said City Manager and unified Public Information Officer Trey Cocking. "That caused a gaseous plume that

to develop that plume covered good portions of the city of Atchinson, we have 18 people being treated for respiratory discomfort."

Of the 18 people who were treated in the hospital for respiratory issues, five are city employees.

"All injuries are minor, they are being kept for observation," Cocking told reporters at a press conference.

Cocking said that by 11a.m. local time officials were reopening portions of the town to residents.

"Right now the cloud has dissipated we're beginning to assess the situation," Cocking said, explaining local government officials were still waiting on state and federal officials to respond, according to ABC News affiliate KMBC.

Chemicals were mixed together "inadvertently in the delivery process," when one chemical was put in the wrong holding tank Cocking told reporters. It was not clear which two chemicals had been mixed.

Thousands of students at local schools were evacuated in addition to staff at the county courthouse. By 11a.m. officials from the Emergency management Services said students were returning to the schools as the plume dissipated.

AP (via ABC)
http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/spill-kansas-chemical-plant-smoke-evacuations-42967699
Spill at Kansas Chemical Plant Causes 'Smoke,' Evacuations
No listed author 10/21/16 11:34am

Authorities say a chemical plant spill has caused a noxious cloud to form over a northeastern Kansas community, prompting the evacuation of a school and the factory.

The spill occurred Friday morning at the MGP Ingredients plant in Atchison, 50 miles northwest of Kansas City.

Atchison County Emergency Manager Wes Lanter says "smoke" coming from the plant poses a breathing threat.

The St. Joseph News Press reports (http://j.mp/2eOP1do) that one school was evacuated and several canceled classes or kept students and staff inside. The Kansas Dept. of Transportation has closed U.S. Highways 59 and 73 and Kansas Highway 7 until further notification.

City Clerk Debbie Clem says she doesn't know which chemical spilled.

MGP produces premium distilled spirits, wheat proteins and starches. The company's website says the plant employs about 300 people.

Patch
http://patch.com/us/across-america/plume-atchison-kansas-chemical-spill-forces-evacuations-shelter-place-orders
Chemical Spill in Atchison, Kansas: 18 Treated for Respiratory Problems, Plume Slowly Dissipating (UPDATE)
By Feroze Dhanoa 10/21/16 12:14pm

ATCHISON, KS — A large plume that covered a significant part of the city of Atchison, Kansas was caused by two chemicals that were inadvertently mixed at a distillery plant prompting residents to either evacuate or shelter in place.

At a press conference around 11 a.m., city manager Tray Tocking said the plume was in the process of dissipating and it was now safe for residents to return to their homes. Students that had been evacuated from school were being allowed to return.

Tocking said at least 18 people were being treated for respiratory problems, though all injuries appeared to be minor. At least five of those injured were city employees. Tocking did not have information on whether any plant workers were injured.

The plume developed around 8:02 a.m. when the two chemicals were inadvertently mixed, leading to a reaction. It began dissipating within an hour. A hazmat protocol was immediately followed after the spill was reported. Tocking said officials were working to figure what the two chemicals were.

Anyone who was having respiratory problems is advised to seek medical attention. Patients were being advised to go the ER.

Those in the plume area were asked to shelter in place and keep their doors and windows shut while those outside of the plume area were asked to evacuate, avoiding the area north of MGP Ingredients. The Atchison County courthouse was closed and employees were evacuated.

MPG Ingredients was not immediately reached for comment.

KSHB Kansas City
http://www.kshb.com/news/state/kansas/breaking-major-chemical-spill-reported-at-grain-company-in-atchison-kansas
BREAKING: Major chemical spill reported at grain company in Atchison, Kansas
No listed author 10/21/16 12:30pm

ATCHISON, Kan. - A chemical spill has been reported at MGP Ingredients Inc. in Atchison, Kansas.

According to the Atchison City Manager's Office, two chemicals were inadvertently mixed together in the wrong holding tank, which caused a reaction.

No word yet on what two chemicals were mixed together.

Officials say 18 people have been treated at the hospital for 'respiratory discomfort' and their injuries have been reported as minor. Five of the people being treated for injuries were city employees.

The city says the air is now safe to breathe outside. If you do smell a bleach odor, call the authorities and they can help ventilate your home.

Around 11,000 Atchison residents were urged to take shelter inside for nearly two hours.

According to multiple reports, at least one of the chemicals was airborne chlorine powder.

Chlorine is poisonous and can even be deadly. Click here for more health information.

The leak started around 8:15 a.m. Friday morning. The city says the fog has lifted and the situation is improving.

Atchison County officials are closing and evacuating the county courthouse. Classes at Benedictine College have been canceled for the day.

Massive clouds of smog appeared throughout the city for nearly 90 minutes.

MGP experienced an explosion at the plant back in February of 2016.

Some roads were closed for almost an hour, but traffic has reopened.

Mosaic Life Care in St. Joseph, Missouri and other area hospitals will be on standby if additional medical help is needed.

The National Weather Service released a map showing where the chemicals will spread through 11:30 a.m.

MGP processes wheat flour into food ingredients, such as wheat proteins used by other manufacturers. By-products from this process are mixed with corn and made into a variety of alcohol additives used in distilled beverages, food and pharmaceuticals.

The company also makes plant-based polymers for petroleum-based plastics, such as disposable cutlery and CD cases.

MGP Ingredients is a supplier of premium spirits, including gin, bourbon and rye whiskeys.

The Kansas City Star
http://www.kansascity.com/news/local/article109613237.html
Mixed chemicals caused evacuation, road closures in Atchison
By Tony Rizzo, Katy Bergen, and Donna McGuire 10/21/16

A chemical spill in Atchison, Kan. reported Friday morning created a dangerous fog and led to a number of evacuations.

Officials estimated that 18 to 26 people were treated for respiratory issues, but no serious injuries were reported.

According to emergency management officials, the spill occurred at MGP Ingredients between 10th and 14th Streets south of Main Street.

City officials said shortly before 11 a.m. that the situation was under control and the all clear was being issued.

It was a little after 9 a.m. when Diann Funk, 50, heard the sirens.

But the curtains were closed, the windows shut and she couldn't see the thick, white fog with the chlorine-like smell surrounding her Atchison, Kan. home.

Minutes later, her husband, Stan, stumbled in the front door with the dogs, agitated, struggling to breathe and reeking of chlorine.

The dachshunds, Poppers and Dexter, appeared to be short-of-breath too, and Dexter began throwing up. When Funk peered out her front window she couldn't see to the street.

"We could not see the trees in our yard," Funk said. "It was that thick. My husband could hardly breathe."

The Funks live north of the plant and on Friday morning Funk said when her husband left the house to walk the dogs at a local park it was a clear, sunny day. At the dog park, he started smelling something like chlorine.

"All of sudden it started getting worse," Funk said. "One of the dogs was coughing. By the time he got the dogs hooked up and back out on the street, he wasn't sure he wasn't going to make it back."

City officials reported that two chemicals were inadvertently mixed together which caused a reaction, but have not confirmed what the chemicals were. Funk said she has a friend who works at the plant and said the chemicals were hydraulic acid and chlorine.

A plume of leaked material drifted off in northerly direction, officials said.

People were advised to avoid that area. Residents of Atchison who lived north of MGP were told to stay inside with their doors and windows shut.

Residents outside of the plume area were asked to evacuate and avoid the area north of MGP.

Students from three Atchison public schools were evacuated while students at the elementary school were told to shelter in place, said Atchison School District Superintendent Susan Myers.

Students from the high school, middle schools and alternative school were told to evacuate either to Wal-Mart or to the Amelia Earhart Memorial Airport two miles west of Atchison, but later the district was told to send students from all three schools to Wal-Mart, Myers said.

The Atchison County Courthouse was evacuated, and classes at Benedictine College were canceled.

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