

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

FIRE DEPARTMENT

HEADQUARTERS

491 BROADWAY, CAMBRIDGE, MA 02138



KEVIN J. FITZGERALD
CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT

(617) 349-4921
FAX (617) 349-4912

WALTER J. ELLIS
ASSISTANT CHIEF

November 13, 1996

To: Chief Kevin J. Fitzgerald

From: Captain Lawrence P. Ferazani

Subject: Investigation of Gasoline Spill Walden at Concord Ave.

Per your orders, the following information was gathered in my investigation of a gasoline spill at the U.S. Petroleum Gasoline Station located at 295 Concord Ave.

On October 14, 1996 at approximately 8:10pm a gasoline delivery truck owned by C.W. Lorden P.O. Box 347 Pepperell Ma. was delivering gasoline to the above named gasoline station. There was a subsequent spill of about 50 gallons of gasoline.

C.W. Lorden contends that the cause of the spill was a defective cover on a Vita hole. This reportedly caused a vacuum in the piping and the gasoline backed out of the tank onto the ground during filling. The driver said that the tank could have accepted another 300 gallons.

U.S. Petroleum contends that the driver from C.W. Lorden had arrived earlier than expected and because of that fact, there was no attendant at the station to monitor the delivery. When the attendant did arrive, he stated he heard the fill alarm going off, indicating that the tank was full, but that the driver had not shut down the delivery.

The Division of Environmental Protection issued each of the parties a Notice of Responsibility (attached) with specific requirements.

C.W. Lorden paid Clean Harbors \$10,000 dollars for the cleanup. U.S. Petroleum had all covers to the Vita holes replaced. Copy of work attached.

Additionally during the investigation I found evidence that on Dec. 12, 1995 another spill had taken place at this location. J.P. Noonan overfilled the tank and caused a gasoline spill. Cause was admitted driver error.

This office has had numerous education outreach programs to gasoline stations in Cambridge and in many cases had the Safety and Health representatives from the major oil companies assist me in promoting safe practices at service stations.

PROBLEM: Driver error or equipment failure.



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

TEL. 349-4300
FAX. 349-4307

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

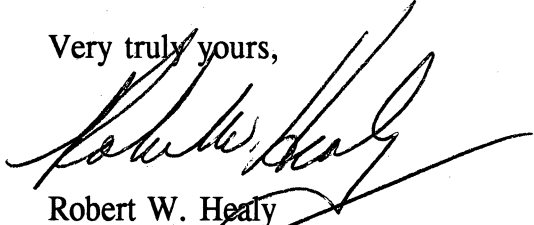
RICHARD C. ROSSI
Deputy City Manager

November 25, 1996

To The Honorable, The City Council:

Please find attached a response to Awaiting Report Item No. 11, regarding a report on the gasoline spill in the vicinity of Concord Avenue and Walden Street on October 14, 1996, received from Fire Captain Lawrence P. Ferazani.

Very truly yours,



Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mec
attachment

Consent Agenda #7

S-593

Transmitting communication relative to
Awaiting Report Item Number Eleven,
regarding a report on the gasoline spill
in the vicinity of Concord Avenue and
Walden Street on October 14, 1996.

original order #39 of

10-21-96

see 470 CM of

10-21-96

In City Council November 25, 1996

PLACED ON FILE