

REPORT ON TOXIC CHEMICALS

As you know, it is very difficult to pin down locations and amounts of all toxic chemicals in the city. I assume that by toxic is meant poisonous chemicals and, since there are many installations having small amounts, I also assume large amounts of substances are meant.

The many laboratories at Harvard, MIT, Draper Lab, A. D. Little and others contain innumerable substances which, when mixed or under fire conditions, are very toxic.

Also, all department stores and pool suppliers have quantities of chlorine. Hardware stores also have supplies. Some listed are:

Sears Roebuck - 1000# dry chlorine

Lechmere Sales

Bay State Pool Supply.

The Cambridge Water Department has chlorine and other chemicals:

8 1 ton cylinders of chlorine

14 100 lb. drums chlorine (Payson Park)

40 220 lb. ea. - potassium permanganate.

All pools such as War Memorial and MDC would keep a supply of chlorine.

Large quantities of ammonia are used as refrigerants at Deran Candy Company on Cambridge Street, and National Biscuit Company (Welch Candy) on Main Street.

I have contacted the Department of Transportation, B & M Railroad and Conrail. There is no central clearing house and no one has information as to how many trucks or rail cars moving through the city carry dangerous cargo.

REPORT ON TOXIC CHEMICALS (Continued)

There are obviously many trucks carrying chlorine, propane and gasoline through the city. Liquefied Natural Gas does not travel by rail. Trucks carrying this cargo do not, as yet, travel through this city. They travel from Rhode Island to Boston and the North Shore.

The Cambridge Gas Company has a large installation of propane at the end of Second Street across the canal from Kendall Square. There are six tanks of 30,00 gallons each.

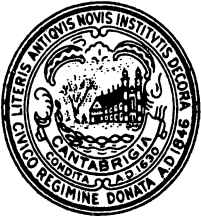
Although rail cars do not travel at high rates of speed, some trains carrying chlorine, propane, or other chemicals, could possibly develop leaks or be involved in fire while parked in Rail Yards.

Respectfully submitted,
Ernest A. Helinas
Deputy chief

RECEIVED

AUG 3 9 51 AM '78

OFFICE OF THE
CITY MANAGER



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139
Tel. 876-6800

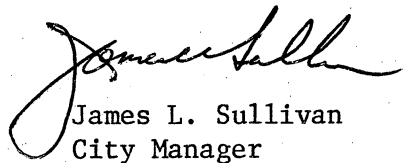
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
JAMES L. SULLIVAN
City Manager

September 18, 1978

To the Honorable, the City Council:

With respect to Awaiting Report Item No. 1, enclosed is
a report from Fire Prevention Officer, Deputy Chief Ernest Gelinas,
relative to the storage and transportation of toxic chemicals.

Very truly yours,



James L. Sullivan
City Manager

JLS/mbf
Enc.

Agenda #1

S-369

Response to Awaiting Report Item No. 1 re:
storage and transportation of toxic chemical

In City Council,
September 18, 1978

Placed on File