

Charlton Health Department
37 Main Street,
Charlton, MA 01507

MassDEP
627 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608

Public Notice #2

(June 18, 2010)

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) and the Town of Charlton are providing this update on the status of response efforts related to the release of diesel fuel to the environment from the Charlton Welding and Repair site and affecting wetlands and water resources in the vicinity of Cady Brook Condominiums.

MassDEP and the Town are working to control and recover several thousand gallons of diesel fuel that was released into a tributary of Cady Brook from a leaking tanker truck. The release was reported by a citizen to the Charlton Fire Department on Friday evening, June 11, 2010. Charlton Fire Department immediately notified MassDEP's Emergency Response unit and began containing the release. MassDEP responded with its cleanup contractor, New England Disposal Technology, Inc (NEDT). The diesel fuel was traced back to Charlton Welding & Repair, Inc. at 11 Griffin Road, on the northern side of Route 20. MassDEP has issued a Notice of Responsibility to Charlton Welding & Repair.

The tanker truck has been emptied and removed. 550 cubic yards of contaminated soil and debris at Charlton Welding and Repair were removed under the supervision of a Licensed Site Professional and MassDEP within 24 hours of the spill being discovered.

MassDEP, NEDT and Town efforts to remove oil from affected water resources have been continuous since discovery of the release. Since recovery efforts began approximately 2,800 gallons of diesel have been recovered through skimming oil off the water and by collection through the use of booms and absorbent pads. This is part of a total of 120,000 gallons of contaminated water removed for disposal. Efforts to prevent the release from spreading beyond the Route 169 bridge have been successful, and are ongoing. Efforts undertaken this week have included flushing of the wetland to drive oil to collection areas and cutting down grasses, leaves and stalks that have trapped the oil.

The public water supply well serving Cady Brook Condominiums has not been compromised. It is a bedrock well, greater than 700 feet deep. Sampling data received by MassDEP on June 16th demonstrates no impact to water quality in the well. Enhanced sampling will continue to ensure the safety of the water from that well. MassDEP is overseeing sampling of public water supply wells in the immediate area. Sampling of private wells within 500 feet of the release area is underway. This is being conducted by CMG environmental, retained by the Responsible Party, with the assistance of Charlton Board of Health.

Clean up efforts continue to focus on addressing the fumes and odors created by the spill and affecting the residents of Cady Brook Condominiums. Removal of oil from the wetland should continue to help abate fumes and odors. MassDEP, in consultation with Charlton Board of Health and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, is conducting air sampling at condominiums closest to the impacted wetland area. We continue to advise residents to keep windows shut and keep pets and children away from the brook and wetland areas that contain diesel fuel. Short term exposure to diesel fumes may temporarily cause nausea, eye irritation, increased blood pressure, headache, light-headedness, loss of appetite, poor coordination, and difficulty concentrating. This notice will be updated periodically to advise residents of clean up status.

Aggressive cleanup actions by MassDEP are expected through this upcoming week, and field operations will continue for several weeks. Additional clean up and follow up monitoring will likely continue for months. MassDEP and Charlton municipal officials will continue to work together until this release is resolved. While clean up activities are underway, the specific cause and timing of the release is under investigation.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact James Philbrook at the Charlton Health Department at (508) 248-2210.