

# Los Alamos

NATIONAL LABORATORY

Hazardous & Solid Waste Group  
Los Alamos National Laboratory  
Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545

Date: December 15, 1995  
In Reply Refer To: ESH-19:95-0640  
Mail Stop: K498  
Telephone: (505) 665-0451

Benito Garcia, Bureau Chief  
Hazardous and Radioactive Materials Bureau  
New Mexico Environment Department  
525 Camino De Los Marquez, Suite #4  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502

Dear Mr. Garcia:

**SUBJECT: EMERGENCY PROPANE RELEASE**

This report on an emergency chemical release at TA-18 is submitted pursuant to the requirements of the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) Hazardous Waste Facility Permit, Module II, General Facility Conditions, Paragraph II.K.2.C.

On December 12, 1995, at 3:54 p.m., a cylinder of propane was discovered leaking at TA-15-183. Representatives of LANL's Emergency Management and Response Group (EM&R) and the Hazardous Materials Response Group (HAZMAT) were immediately notified of the situation. In addition, the National Response Center (NRC) was notified at 5:55 p.m. on 12/12/95. Petty Officer Shores of the NRC was notified that a D001 hazardous waste was released in excess of the Reportable Quantity (RQ) of 100 pounds. On 12/13/95, however, it was reported that the volume of the propane release was approximately 96 pounds. In addition, LANL contacted N. Wells of the New Mexico Environment Department by telephone at 6:00 p.m. on December 12, 1995, as required by paragraph II.K.2.b. of the LANL permit.

Since the flow of gas could not be stopped and the gas had not ignited, HAZMAT decided to vent the entire contents of the cylinder under emergency conditions and to apply a water fog. The use of a water fog to disperse LP-Gas liquid or vapor is indicated by the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for propane. In addition, the determination was made that the emergency release of the propane while applying a water fog would not result in significant gas accumulation in low-lying areas that could ignite in the future. A water fog was applied by the LAFD in the area of the cylinder at a rate of 125 gallons per minute for approximately 30 minutes. Safe stand-off distances for the LAFD were determined.

For further information, please contact me at 665-0451, or Mike Alexander, Water Quality and Hydrology Group (ESH-18), at 665-4752. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

*Anthony R. Grieggs*  
Anthony Grieggs  
Hazardous & Solid Waste

ARG:es

Cy: J. Plum, LAAO, MS A316  
CIC-10, MS A150

Franco Sisneros, ESH-7, MS K999



3922

LANC  
TX 15  
red

# LOS ALAMOS NATIONAL LABORATORY HAZARDOUS & SOLID WASTE GROUP (ESH-19) FAX TRANSMITTAL SHEET

FAX #: (505) 667-5224

VERIFICATION #: (505) 665-9527

DATE: 12/15/95 ID # \_\_\_\_\_ LOG NO: ESH-19:95-FAX-

FROM: T. Grieggs PHONE #: (505) 665-0451

TO: B. Garcia FAX #: ( ) 827-1544 VERIFY PHONE # ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

GRP/ORG: NMED

TO: J. Vozella FAX #: ( ) 665-4872 VERIFY PHONE # ( ) 7-5288

GRP/ORG: DOE-LAAO

TO: F. Sisheros FAX #: ( ) 5-6977 VERIFY PHONE # ( ) 7-0598

GRP/ORG: ESH-7

MESSAGE: 5 day report; Notification of emergency release.

NUMBER OF PAGES TO FOLLOW: 1

Cy: CRM-4, MS A150

\_\_\_\_\_  
SECTION LEADER

\_\_\_\_\_  
GROUP OR DEPUTY GROUP LEADER

January 13, 1995

TR