

# Safety Topics

Volume 02, Issue 8

August 2002

*Special points of interest:*

## **EMS for Oil Spills**

**&**

## **Obituary (continued)**

*For what it is worth!*

Have you thought about and made a plan for what to do when a significant oil leak occurs after you leave the plant?

This month's *Safety Topics* obituary article is courtesy of the **Concrete Connection** a monthly publication of the Ohio Ready Mixed Concrete Association.

This month you can complete the obituary for Mr. Common Sense that I started last month.



## **Environmental Policy For Oil Spills**

It is the policy of Irving Materials, Inc. to maintain our equipment in such a manner that unforeseen discharges of petroleum based products into the environment are minimized. Although we do not expect to have such a discharge, unexpected events do occur. In anticipation of the possibility of such an occurrence, the following procedures have been developed:

- If a release of petroleum based product from imi equipment or trucks occurs while our equipment or trucks are on a customer's property or construction site or on a public or private roadway, the operator of the equipment will immediately notify the plant of the release by means of the in-truck communication equipment.
- The Plant will notify the area maintenance staff, which has spill containment and clean-up materials.
- The equipment or truck operator will then take action to contain the spill in the smallest possible area. This can be accomplished with whatever materials are available such as sand, dirt, rags, or even plastic concrete. Every effort will be made to prevent the spill of the petroleum based product from entering any standing water or any storm water drain or catch basin.
- When the maintenance/spill response crew arrives, they will assess the extent of the spill. They shall immediately use spill containment and retrieval supplies to absorb the spilled material. If the spilled quantity has exceeded 50 gallons or the spill has entered waters of the State, Earl Kessler (502) 456-6930, Steve Henderson (765) 643-5358, John Curtis (615) 884-4935, or Walt Tharp, (317) 432-9604 shall be notified.
- The maintenance/spill response crew will clean-up all of the spilled product and all of the clean-up materials and any contaminated materials, and shall remove them from the site for disposal at an approved location and in accordance with all applicable rules and regulations.

It is important that the driver of the truck or equipment not panic and work to contain the spill in as small an area as possible. If the spill is beyond the clean-up ability of our in-house personnel, the Area Manager will contact an outside response contractor.

There was a spill recently in the Indianapolis area and an outside contractor helped with the clean-up because the spill was spread over a fairly large area. Sometimes that becomes necessary. The most important consideration is to take responsibility and clean-up the mess.

### **Obituary for Mr. Common Sense (Continued)**

In recent decades his waning strength proved no match for the ravages of well intentioned but overbearing regulations. He watched in pain as self-seeking lawyers ruled good people. His health rapidly deteriorated when schools endlessly implemented zero-tolerance policies. Reports of a six-year-old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate, a teen suspended for taking a swig of mouthwash after lunch, and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student only worsened his condition.

It declined even further when schools had to get parental consent to administer aspirin to a student but could not inform the parent when a female student was pregnant or wanted an abortion. Finally, Common Sense lost his will to live as the Ten Commandments became contraband, churches became businesses, criminals received better treatment than victims, and federal judges stuck their noses in everything from the Boy Scouts to professional sports.

Finally, when a woman failed to realize that a steaming cup of coffee was hot, and was awarded a huge settlement, Common Sense threw in the towel.

As the end neared, Common Sense drifted in and out of logic but was kept informed of developments regarding questionable regulations such as those for low flow toilets, rocking chairs, and stepladders.

Common Sense was preceded in death by his parents, Truth and Trust; his wife, Discretion; his daughter, Responsibility; and his son, Reason. He is survived by two stepbrothers: My Rights, and Ima Whiner.

Not many attended his funeral because so few realized he was gone.

**Safety Topics - EMS/Policy on Oil Spills & Mr. Common Sense Obituary  
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*These Safety Topics are an attempt at continuing education. Please read the information and let me know if you have an idea for future Topics. Your input is appreciated!*

Plant Location: \_\_\_\_\_

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Supervisor/Foreman/Plant Manager Signature:

**Names of those who reviewed this information:**

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