Fact Sheet: SMITH vs MONSANTO St. Louis Circuit Court

Plainiff is a security guard at the Route 3 Liquor Store (across the street from WGK. He alleges he was "gased" as a result of a phosphorus oxychloride spill at WGK -- the so-called "Super Bowl Sunday incident."

In way of background, On Sunday afternoon, Jan. 22, 1984, (a snowy, bitter cold day at the WGK plant in Sauget, Ill.,) a large piece of ice broke loose from overhead piping, severing the nozzle on a storage tank containing phosphorus oxychloride. It was estimated that some 5,400 gallons of product spilled on the ground before the leak was discovered and contained. Approximately 100 people from nearby residential areas were subsequently treated for minor complaints. All were released within a few hours.

Monsanto paid all hospital emergency room bills and settled all property damage claims on the spot -- no questions asked! We were later sued by Mr. Smith (and others, including one class action suit which is still pending trial).

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