

Hand File
OCP

PRESS QUERY

COMPANY (OpUnit or Corporate): MCI

SUBJECT: Chemical car derailment at Sturgeon, Mo.

REPORTER & MEDIA: Ed Shafer, AP; Dave Punt, KWIX;
Curtis Peck, Mexico Ledger; Howard Mitchell, KFRU,
TIME & DATE: January 11, 1979 et al

QUESTION & RESPONSE:

The derailment of a Norfolk & Western train at Sturgeon, Mo., caused a leak in a tankcar of 20,000 gallons of an industrial chemical en route from Monsanto's plant at Sauget, Ill., to Tacoma, Wash. An evacuation of residents was ordered this morning as a precautionary measure. The railroad has experts on the scene to direct the cleanup. A team of specialists from Monsanto is on the scene to advise.

The product is described as an intermediate chemical used as an ingredient in wood preservatives. It is called chlorinated carboic acid (ortho chlorophenol-crude).. It is a non-explosive corrosive liquid that can burn. It is irritating to the eyes and respiratory system, is toxic, and can burn the skin on contact.

X *Bob Bitter*
Joe Metcalf
John Mc
Howard
Tip
Jim
Dick
Stoker

X News Bureau
X J. T. Nolan
X J. E. McKee
X D. R. Bishop
X W. J. McCarville
W. R. Mulhall
J. F. Hussey-Washington, D.C.
S. Pickard-Washington, D.C.
New York Public Relations
Brussels Public Relations
X MAP PR
X MCI PR
X MIC PR
X MPR PR
X MTC PR
X INT'L PR
F. E. Reese
E. N. Brasfield
M. Dmytryszyn

C00628

SOURCE OF ANSWER Howard Curtis, Charlie Farley,
Joe Metcalf

HANDLED BY: John J. Spano

1/11/79

PRESS STATEMENT

*not
issued*

The tankcar (GATX 12932) contained 20,000 gallons of chlorinated carboic acid (crude orthochlorophenol). This product is a chemical intermediate used to make wood preservatives.

The Norfolk & Western Railroad reports that the accident occurred at 11:10 p.m, Jan. 10. One Car in the 68 carload derailed upright with the wheels out from under the car. The derailment occurred 16 miles south of Moberly, Mo., near Sturgeon, Mo. All of the chlorinated carboic acid leaked out except 500 gallons in the heel of the car. No injuries were reported. Minor track damage was reported by the railroad. The railroad contacted Western Environmental Services of St. Louis to assist in the cleanup.

Chlorinated carboic acid is classified as a corrosive liquid by the Department of Transportation. It is also registered as a class B poison. The label reads (see attachment).

Three Monsanto personnel are on the scene at Sturgeon, Mo., to assist in the cleanup effort.

-o0o-

C00598