



REGIONAL AIR POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY

Serving Clark, Darke, Greene, Miami, Montgomery & Preble Counties
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July 16, 2012

Certified Mail:

Chief Michael Roberts
Camden & Somers Township Fire Rescue
P.O. Box 154
Camden, Ohio 45311

RE: Unauthorized fire training and asbestos removal conducted at house on 2573 Israel Somers Rd.

Dear Chief Roberts:

WARNING LETTER

This letter is in regards to fire training and asbestos removal activities which were conducted by Camden & Somers Township Fire Rescue (CSTFR) members in 2010 at the house on 2573 Israel Somers Road in Preble County, Ohio. On June 19, 2012, the Regional Air Pollution Control Agency (RAPCA) received information which was contained in a letter, dated March 19, 2012, from Mr. Len Vonderhaar to Ohio EPA Director Scott Nally. In the correspondence accompanying Mr. Vonderhaar's letter was an undated letter from CSTFR to Director Nally regarding fire training and asbestos removal activities, which were previously performed by CSTFR on and within the house at 2573 Israel Somers Road. This was RAPCA's first receipt of the CSTFR letter. This letter serves to clarify the facts regarding this matter.

On August 24, 2010, RAPCA faxed CSTFR detailed information regarding the requirements for conducting fire training on standing structures. It was noted that an open burning application and a Notification of Demolition and Renovation form, including an asbestos survey, was required for any live fire training on or within a structure, including room and content burns.

On August 25, 2010, RAPCA performed an inspection of the house at 2573 Israel Somers Road. RAPCA took photos which documented open burning had occurred within the interior of the structure. Photos of the home's exterior revealed two sides of the wood frame structure were covered with transite. The front and rear sides of the home were sided by wood only and transite had apparently been removed as evidenced by stacks of broken transite shingles photographed behind the residence.

On September 3, 2010, former CSTFR Chief Scott Michael contacted RAPCA by phone to discuss the requirements for conducting fire training on the above structure. During that conversation Chief Michael inquired about receiving permission to conduct a fire training exercise which did NOT include the house. On September 7, 2010, RAPCA received an application from CSTFR for a fire training exercise at the Israel Somers Road property to include a minivan, hay bale and brush pile. The state permission, number P-1155, approved and issued by RAPCA on September 7, 2010, was for fire training utilizing the vehicle, wood and brush

Chief Michael Roberts
Camden & Somers Township Fire Rescue
July 16, 2012
Page 2 of 2

only. The permission was not for fire training on or within the house as inferred in CSTFR's undated letter to Director Nally.

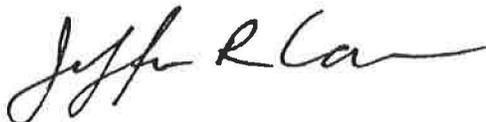
CSTFR's undated letter to Director Nally states that the fire department utilized the residence at 2573 Israel Somers Road for fire training on numerous occasions (during the summer of 2010). This information is consistent with the observations documented during RAPCA's August 25, 2010 inspection. RAPCA did not receive an open burning application for conducting a fire training exercise on or within the house at 2573 Israel Somers Road nor a Notification of Demolition and Renovation form. **The open burning activities conducted by CSTFR in 2010 within the house are in violation of Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) 3745-19-04 (C)(2) and ORC Section 3704.05.**

CSTFR's undated letter to Director Nally also stated that fire department personnel had removed transite siding in August (2010) to prepare the structure for burning. **RAPCA did not receive a Notification of Demolition and Renovation form for the transite removal or for the interior open burning activities conducted by CSTFR in violation of National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) specified in 40 CFR Part 61, Subpart M section 61.145(b), OAC 3745-20-03 and ORC Section 3704.05.**

This letter serves as official notification to CSTFR of the aforementioned open burning and asbestos violations. Any further violations of the regulations will result in enforcement actions against CSTFR, including civil and/or criminal penalties. With regards to any future fire training activities involving the house on 2573 Israel Somers Road, please refer to the attached letter from Director Nally to Len Vonderhaar, dated July 10, 2012. As detailed in Director Nally's letter, NO fire training is permissible on or within the structure in its present state.

If you have any questions regarding this information, you may contact me at (937) 225-5934 or Christine Swetz at (937) 496-7541.

Sincerely,



Jefferis R. Canan
Enforcement Group Supervisor

Enclosure

cc: Bob Hodanbosi, Ohio EPA
Tom Buchan, Ohio EPA
Preble County General Health District
Donald and Roselyn Lindeman, property owners
Len Vonderhaar