
NEWS FROM THE NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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Ethyl Mercaptan Spill Reported Near Fryburg

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) is closely monitoring an ethyl mercaptan spill at the Fryburg Rail Terminal near Fryburg in Billings County. The leak occurred on March 31 and was reported by Andeavor Logistics on April 1. Ethyl mercaptan (in liquid form) was released from a 1,400-gallon tank which was not full at the time. The leak was contained within a concrete structure. Ethyl mercaptan has a very strong odor and is added to natural gas/propane to allow the public to detect residential gas leaks.

Andeavor is currently treating the spill to neutralize the ethyl mercaptan. An independent contractor is conducting on-going monitoring of the air surrounding the facility, and the results currently show low concentrations of ethyl mercaptan in the air. The monitored concentrations do not necessitate a general health advisory; however, sensitive individuals such as those with respiratory conditions should minimize exposure as much as possible.

NDDoH personnel are working with local emergency response and the Southwestern District Health Unit to monitor the spill cleanup. For more information, contact Jim Semerad, North Dakota Department of Health, at 701-328-5188.

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