

ENPRO responds to emergency clean up call from Windfield Alloy, Inc.

Clean up of leaking gas cylinder at metal recycling facility



Windfield Alloy, Inc. is a recognized leader in single source recycling and asset management programs that provide recycling solutions for hundreds of ecologically friendly companies. With 30 years of recycling experience and locations in Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Texas and partner locations throughout the US, Windfield Alloy processes over a million pounds of material a week.

On November 13, 2010, the Lawrence, MA Fire Department was notified of a vapor cloud emanating from a compressed gas cylinder at the Windfield Alloy metal recycling facility. The cylinder had been delivered to the facility as an empty container suitable for recycling, and thus had no markings on it to indicate contents. Unfortunately, the cylinder apparently contained residual contents that were then released when the cylinder valve was damaged.

Windfield Alloy Corporate Environmental Health and Safety Officer, Wendell Ilby, immediately contacted ENPRO to provide emergency response activities in order to assess, mitigate and clean up the release. Because of the proximity of residential properties to the facility, ENPRO initially worked closely with personnel from the Lawrence Fire Department and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) to determine what was being released, and the levels that were present in surrounding areas. After it was determined that the vapor cloud likely contained a refrigerant, with primary components 1,1 -DCA, Freon 40 and Sulfur Dioxide, ENPRO worked to safely remove the residual gases from the cylinder.

Mr. Ilby was kind enough to take a few moments to share his thoughts on his affiliation and overall experience with ENPRO.

What services did ENPRO provide to you?

ENPRO was called to assess the situation of a leaking cylinder at our Lawrence facility. They worked with the MassDEP and Lawrence Fire Department to determine the nature of the gases. In order to collect the gas streaming from the cylinder, ENPRO's senior chemists installed a cylinder clamp to reduce the flow of gases and then decanted the gases into water to prevent their continued release to the environment. All vapors were condensed and collected at ground level to prevent their migration off-site. A few days later, ENPRO returned to the site to collect and

properly dispose of recovered gases contained in two drums of water as well as to clean the pavement adjacent to the leaking cylinder. Per the request of the MassDEP, ENPRO returned a third time to dispose of all gas cylinders and propane canisters in our facility.

How did you find the overall experience of working with ENPRO?

From the moment ENPRO arrived on the scene, they were quick and thorough with their analysis of the issue at hand as well as initiating a plan of action. Their competency and professionalism allowed Windfield to allay the concerns of the facility's neighbors, the Lawrence Fire Department and the MassDEP. I was confident the work would be done in a timely manner and with attention to detail, which proved to be true when they came back to clean the area surrounding the leaking cylinder.

Services Provided

- Assessment, mitigation and clean up of unknown chemical release
- Site investigation, environmental monitoring and risk assessment
- Transportation and disposal of bulk or containerized remediation waste
- Product recovery and transfer
- Site restoration