

Baltimore County Public Schools
Baltimore, MD



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Case Study:

Oil Spill Remediation & Assessment



Highlights:

- Spill remediated by Triumvirate's field services
- Cause and extent assessed by technical-service team
- State guidance followed and project completed in accordance with COMAR 26.10

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Situation

During a holiday break, an elementary school in Maryland experienced a No. 2 fuel oil spill that leaked up to 1,000 gallons of oil out of a tank into the basement. A custodian entered the basement to discover that a gasket had malfunctioned and the oil was flowing into a floor drain that discharged in front of the school. Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS) notified the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) of the emergency, and the MDE responded with a bulleted list of items that required completion, including remediation of the spill and assessment of the extent and cause of the release. The school system immediately contacted its environmental health and safety partner, Triumvirate Environmental, to provide response action management.

Action

Triumvirate entered the scene, with a consulting team initiating assessment activities, and the field services team remediating the spill. A vacuum truck was utilized to collect standing oil in the basement, the sump pit, and the discharge pump. Following this, the sump pit and the concrete floor were cleaned and the discharge pipe was then excavated and removed. Core drills and soil samples were used to assess for the presence of contamination in the soil below the concrete floor of the basement. Triumvirate assessed utility plans to determine potential oil migration, and, as a result of the assessment, additionally flushed all drain lines in the boiler room and excavated multiple feet of contaminated soil in the schoolyard.

During this process, Triumvirate's technical services team discovered oil in a culvert approximately 530 feet from the school, along the roadway. That soil, too, was excavated accordingly by our field services team. Triumvirate prepared an assessment plan that detailed the proposed assessment activities and locations for soil borings and monitoring wells. The plan was reviewed and approved by the MDE and BCPS. Triumvirate went to work directing the advancement and installation of twenty borings and well points throughout the area surrounding the building and culvert to assess the soil and groundwater. Triumvirate's staff conducted screening of the soils and sent soil and groundwater samples for laboratory analysis.



Result

Triumvirate remediated and assessed the property in accordance with COMAR 26.10 and with guidance promulgated by the MDE. Within 30 days, Triumvirate removed the excess oil within the building and in the discharge pipes, mitigating further release migration. Assessment of oil contamination in soil and groundwater continues, as mandated by the MDE. Triumvirate's competent and experienced staff has served as the bridge of communication between the client and the regulatory body.

