



GCSA FACT SHEET
LEAKING GARBAGE TRUCKS AND STORMWATER RULES
Prepared by INCOG, July 2013

INCOG NOTE: Many cities receive citizen complaints about leaking garbage trucks. In reviewing this issue for one of our GCSA members, the following information was compiled with respect to pollution and stormwater permit compliance. **INCOG comments are in blue text.** Other text is copied verbatim, with format changes as needed.

1. News Article on Bacteria Levels in Garbage Truck Leaking Wastes

Investigators find city trucks in Memphis, Tenn., leak

February 10, 2012

By **Vince Bond**

City garbage trucks in Memphis, Tenn., are leaving trails of bacterial "garbage juice," according an investigation by a local TV station.

WREG-TV followed the garbage trucks and collected samples of leaked contents for testing.

The lab, Environmental Testing and Consulting Inc., found that the liquids resembled raw sewage. Two of the samples tested positive for Listeria, which can cause stomach problems, while others contained "dangerous levels" of the infection-causing staphylococcus, the station reported.

"The waste that's coming out of there is not what anybody needs to be messing with," Connie Cook, a lab manager for the company, told the station.

The leaking can be avoided if the drains on the back of the trucks are plugged, the station said, but the city doesn't require it.

Republic Services Inc. trucks in the city require plugs and they haven't leaked, the investigation found.

Contact Waste & Recycling News reporter Vince Bond at vbond@crain.com or 313-446-1653.
<http://www.wasterecyclingnews.com/article/20120210/NEWS01/302109995/investigators-find-city-trucks-in-memphis-tenn-leak>

2. News Article on Bacteria Levels in Garbage Truck Leaking Wastes

Investigator: Potentially deadly listeria found in garbage juice

12:04 AM, May 24, 2012

NORTHEAST OHIO -- Listeria, a potentially deadly food-borne bacteria, was found in high levels of fluids dripping from garbage trucks onto neighborhood streets, a Channel 3 News investigation found.

The bacteria has a mortality rate of 20 percent and, according to microbiologist Roger Pryor, of Accra Labs in Twinsburg, it poses an especially significant threat to the elderly, children and to pregnant women.

Channel 3 news collected samples of fluids spilling from garbage trucks in Cleveland, Cleveland Heights, Maple Heights and Brooklyn and had them tested.

In addition to listeria, Accra Labs found very high levels of bacteria and low levels of salmonella.

Cleveland City Councilman Mike Polensek says homeowners in the Collinwood neighborhood he represents often complain about the filthy stains left behind by city trash haulers.

"It becomes a major problem because you don't know what's in it," said Polensek.

Some experts say a single drop of listeria is enough to make you sick. Children playing ball in the streets can easily come in contact with the contaminated fluid.

A number of cities, including Cleveland, are turning to newer container trucks which are not supposed to leak fluids.

But Channel 3 news found newer trucks leaking fluid in both Cleveland and in Maple Heights.

A simple drain plug, which we found at a local store for less than \$2, can be an easy fix. But service directors in several communities say the plug can pose a hazard to workers collecting the garbage.

"That juice collects in the back of the packer and, eventually, splashes out onto our employees on the street," said Ronnie Owens, the commissioner of the division of waste collection in the Cleveland Department of Public Service.

Cleveland and other communities are in the process of purchasing the newer container trucks which they believe, with minor maintenance, can contain fluids inside the truck.

"With our new automated system, and with the enclosed truck, there shouldn't be any garbage juice leaking out," said Owens.

Owens suspected a bad seal was to blame for the truck Channel 3 News found leaking.

WKYC-TV

<http://www.wkyc.com/news/article/245633/45/Investigator-Potentially-deadly-listeria-found-in-garbage-juice>

3. ODEQ Title 252, Chapter 515 Solid Waste Regulations

TITLE 252. DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
CHAPTER 515. MANAGEMENT OF SOLID WASTE

252:515-33-4. Adequate enclosure

All persons transporting solid waste to a disposal facility shall provide an adequate enclosure to prevent waste from spilling, falling, leaking, or blowing en route to the disposal site. The person hauling solid waste to a disposal site shall collect any waste that spills, falls, leaks, or blows from the waste hauling vehicle.

INCOG NOTE: It is not known how ODEQ expects OKR04 to address this issue. INCOG's understanding of the EPA stormwater rules and OKR04 permit is that no pollution, regardless of quantity, is allowed to enter a street which is defined to be part of the permittee's MS4. But examining a number of stormwater programs around the country regarding leaking garbage trucks indicates that this is a continuing concern for local enforcement, and that there are no effective solutions being used in other parts of the country.