EPA Settles with Honeywell for Chemical Release Reporting Violations; $36,000 Fine

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CHICAGO (Sept. 9, 2002) — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 has settled an administrative complaint against Honeywell International for violation of federal laws on the reporting of hazardous chemical releases. The company has agreed to pay a $36,000 fine.

The complaint, which was filed March 29, 2002, is based on two separate incidents. EPA alleged that fires on February 5, 1998, and December 17, 1999, at Honeywell’s tar plant at 1200 Zug Road, Detroit, Mich., resulted in the release of coal tar. After the incident, the company failed to immediately notify the National Response Center and the Michigan State Emergency Response Commission. Honeywell also failed to provide written follow-up reports to the Michigan SERC and the city of Detroit’s local emergency planning committee after the second fire. These reports are required as soon as practicable after such incidents.

About Coal Tar
Coal tar contains the hazardous chemicals benzo(a)pyrene and dibenz(a,h)anthracene, which when heated can evaporate into clouds, endangering public health.

Both chemicals are suspected carcinogens. Prolonged exposure to coal tar fumes, vapors or dust can cause irritation or burning to the eyes or respiratory tract. Ingestion of coal tar may cause irritation to the gastrointestinal tract, nausea and vomiting.

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