

Freedom of Information request reference number: 7951.1

Date of response: 19 October 2023

Request:

I understand that Bureau Veritas was commissioned to report on the landfill on and under Arnolds Field on Launders Lane in Rainham Essex and establish dangers of buried landfill which is now on fire regularly polluting the air in Rainham.

A company is now carrying out a site investigation despite the fires and im sure would appreciate a copy of this report.

Therefore please give us access to the full report under FOI requirements.

Response:

I contacted Bureau Veritas and they advised although they have made numerous visits to Launders Lane, they have not been commissioned to write a report.

They did provide a summary of their findings to the London Fire Brigade Hazmat team. I have included a copy of that summary below.

On 07 July 2019 attendance was made at Landers Lane, Rainham Marsh, RM13 9SB (incident number: 086232-05072019) by Bureau Veritas to provide environmental monitoring for London Fire Brigade. The environment agency was also in attendance.

The fire, which was largely smouldering during Bureau Veritas' attendance was at a landfill site. Hazards included cylinders, aerosols, and inhalation dangers. It was reported that asbestos (corrugated cement-type) and used nappies (i.e. a biohazard) were also present, but this was not observed by Bureau Veritas.

Monitoring was carried out using the following pieces of D.I.M. equipment: GfG gas detection meters (including some with chlorine and hydrogen cyanide sensors), Drager tubes (carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons, sulphur dioxide, hydrogen chloride, hydrogen cyanide, ammonia, and formaldehyde), and the Hapsite gas chromatograph mass spectrometer.

The GfGs detected carbon monoxide at approximately 20ppm and carbon dioxide at approximately 0.05%.

The Drager tubes detected carbon monoxide at approximately 20ppm and hydrogen cyanide at approximately 0.25ppm.

The Hapsite detected benzene, styrene and toluene.

The levels of carbon monoxide detected were at the 8 hour time weighted average (8hr TWA, i.e. it was safe to be in these levels for around eight hours, approximately a working day).

The levels of carbon dioxide and hydrogen cyanide detected were both well below their 8hr TWAs (which are 0.5% and 0.9ppm in the UK respectively) and the hydrogen cyanide was not even detected using the equivalent GfG.

The Hapsite can detect down to parts per billion, but does not indicate levels. However, the peaks for benzene, styrene and toluene (all hydrocarbons from the same family of organic chemicals: aromatics) were all barely visible relative to Hapsite's internal standards, suggesting that the levels were minor (8hr TWAs are 1ppm, 100ppm, and 50ppm respectively).

None of the chemicals detected, or their levels were unexpected. Given these results, the SA advised that if possible all attending crews should be equipped with a GfG and to back off if the GDM alarmed at any point, to stay upwind of any smoke, and that the use of respiratory protective equipment was an option, but not vital.

We have dealt with your request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. For more information about this process please see the guidance we publish about making a request [on our website](#)