

# CHEMICAL LEAK IN BRNA

On the 17th of August, I sent a letter out to all elected officials. A Hydrochloric Acid release of 2000lbs was release into our sewers in April. XL 4 Star Beef Plant at 3435 Gomez Ave, didn't even have the decency to inform the public, by calling 911/Hazmat or the LEPC. They just simply washed it down the sewers and blew the cloud out from their building with a fan for over two hours. They admitted to only 370lbs of HCL.

Now, to all our readers, I through BRNA have been a lookout for the community for the past 6 years. I and other BRNA members have attended many meetings currently and in the past. Meetings such as the South Omaha Environmental Task Force, the Local Emergency Planning Committee, Community Lead Sites in Omaha, The Combined Sewer Overflow and SONA. Many of us act on different issues that effect our boundaries including the whole South Omaha area, such as Gangs & Graffiti issues. We are very informed when it comes to keeping our area safe.

But as a BRNA representative I wonder as I sit on these boards with business, industry and elected officials, if they are as concerned for us and our community as we are. The XL4 Star Beef Plant (the old Tyson Plant) seemed not to be concerned for our health and safety in the neighborhood or they would have called 911 to help. I think they were more concerned about making money and keeping their record clean, then keeping thier employees and the community safe and free from harm.

At this point there are many investigations going and all are keeping me apprised of the ongoing investigations. I will keep you informed as I get information. But until then I need your help.

I may never know how many people this affected unless they start calling. **So, if anyone experienced chemical odors inside your house and have been experiencing side effects since then, go see your doctor.** Then call me to let me know. If you called 911 in the past year for odors in or outside your home call me. You may have seen the signs posted all around BRNA about odors. So, if you called the odor number 444-4919 in the last year, call me.

Yes, we have always had odors in the past, we live in South Omaha, the meat packing capitol of Nebraska. But, because we do we have many chemicals that those packing facilities have in their buildings. There are a huge list of odors that go on in our area, so if you called for odors other then chemicals, call me. I just need to know if you have been effected by any odor.

Unless I have a response from you, I cannot act on your behalf in these meeting. The more informed you are about what takes place in our community, the safer all will be. But we must all take responsibility to act on behalf of you, your family and the neighbors around you.

For the Kids & Community  
Rebecca Barrientos-Patlan  
BRNA Founder