

Fresh lead in chemical mystery

From BBC 20th May 2009

The Environment Agency said it was following a new lead after its appeal about a trailer dumped in Shropshire, with 160 drums of chemicals on board.

The trailer was found in a lay-by on the A53 near Hodnet on 12 May and may have been there for up to two weeks.

The agency said the first two barrels had been opened and it was "likely there will be a range of waste".

It also said that it could take up to two weeks to remove and examine each drum to see exactly what it contained.



Hodnet chemical dumping charges brought

From The Shropshire Star. Thursday 2nd December 2010.

Two people have been charged after dozens of barrels of lethal chemicals were allegedly illegally dumped in north Shropshire, the Environment Agency said today.

The man and a woman, both from the North West, have been charged with a total of 26 environmental offences.

It follows a major investigation into how a cocktail of dangerous chemicals was discovered in the back of a lorry found in Hodnet in May 2009. The pair were charged at Leyland Police Station and bailed to appear before Leyland Magistrates Court on January 27 2011.

Five other men, all from the north of England, remain on police bail pending further inquiries.

The charges follow an Environment Agency probe into the alleged dumping of hazardous chemicals at sites across the north.

The Environment Agency's National Environmental Crime Team officer Brian Hopkins, who is co-ordinating Operation Pandora, said: "These charges are the result of an ongoing, complex and nationwide investigation into the alleged illegal storage and disposal of hazardous waste across Lancashire, Shropshire and the North East."

The discovery of the chemicals in Shropshire sparked a full-scale eco-alert with officials closing the A53 and firefighters, wearing protective suits, entering the lorry.

Illegal Dumpers (P3)

Task

You have been called to a remote area of the countryside where a number of suspicious containers have been found. Some of these have clear labels so that they can be easily identified however there are several containers that have either no label or damaged labels. It is your job to carry out tests to identify these substances.

Sample Number	Type of Compound	Name of Compound
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		

Illegal Dumpers (M3)

Task

Some of the compounds that have been identified are listed below. In each case it is necessary to describe where these chemicals are used in society. This evidence can then be used to help trace where they might have come from.

Kerosene (a mixture of alkanes)	Use:
Ethene (an alkene) also known as Ethylene	Use:
Propene (an alkene) also known as Propylene	Use:
Ethanol (an alcohol)	Use 1: Use 2:
Ethanoic Acid (a carboxylic acid)	Use:
Poly Vinyl Chloride (an addition polymer) also known as PVC	Use:

Illegal Dumpers (D3)

Task

For the classes of compounds below explain at least two benefits to society and at least two disadvantages of their use.

Class of Compound	Benefits	Disadvantages
The use of hydrocarbons as fuels		
The use of alcohols		
The use of carboxylic acids		
The use of halogenated polymers such as PVC		