

Reporting Environmental Violations, Emergencies, & Other Concerns

The Council receives a number of calls concerning environmental issues and violations. Here is some information to assist you in getting the help you need with these situations.

It is important first to determine if the situation is a VIOLATION or an EMERGENCY. According to the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA):

An **environmental emergency** is a sudden threat to the public health or the well-being of the environment, arising from the release or potential release of oil, radioactive materials, or hazardous chemicals into the air, land, or water. Examples of environmental emergencies include:

- oil and chemical spills,
- radiological and biological discharges, and
- accidents causing releases of pollutants

These emergencies may occur from transportation accidents, events at chemical or other facilities using or manufacturing chemicals, or as a result of natural or man-made disaster events. If you are involved in or witness an environmental emergency that presents a sudden threat to public health, you must call the National Response Center at: 1-800-424-8802.

Environmental violations occur when an existing condition or activity is in violation of an environmental law or regulation. To report environmental violation, EPA recommends that you begin at the local level:

1. Contact your Local City or County governmental office or agency by looking in the blue pages of your telephone book or contacting your public library.
2. For concerns handled at the State level, contact the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. The following link includes the appropriate field office numbers: www.tn.gov/environment/efo/
3. For concerns handled at a National level fill out the form at www.epa.gov/tips. Click here for more details on what should and should not be reported, phone numbers for regional offices and more <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/complaints/moreinfo.html>

For more information on environmental emergencies and violations visit:

<http://www.epa.gov/epahome/violations.htm> or <http://www.ehso.com/ehshome/violations.htm>

Additional Resources

Many Tennessee Non-Profit organizations that work on water, air, and land issues can be found at <http://www.greenbooktennessee.com>. These organizations may work on regulatory compliance, some may support legal actions to protect a natural resource that is in their area of geographic focus, some get involved in media and other outreach campaigns to advocate for or against a particular issue or action, some may be able to assist you in other ways.

The Council rarely engages with private landowners to resolve environmental disputes. If you have taken the steps above, your problem is not resolved, and you believe we can help; please send an email with your name, a description of the problem, location, any pictures, how you think we might be able to help, and your contact information to tec@tectn.org. Please include "TN Environmental Issue" in the subject line. Thank you for your environmental stewardship, we hope this information helps bring a speedy resolution to your situation.

This information provided by Tennessee Environmental Council ♦ www.tectn.org