

**HAZARDOUS WASTE SECTION - COMPLIANCE BRANCH  
FILE TRANSMITTAL & DATA ENTRY FORM**

**Facility ID Number:** NCS000002312

**Facility Name:** CLE's Towing & Transport, LLC

**Document Group:** Inspection/Investigation (I)

**Document Type:** I - Compliant Investigation (CMP)

**File Description/Comments** No RCRA violations found. No further action needed by the HW Section. Referred to the UST Section.

**Date of Document:** 4/23/2016

**Author(s) of Document:** Phil Orozco

**Suborganization:** Eastern Region

**County (if not on report):** DURHAM

**NC DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
DIVISION OF WASTE MANAGEMENT  
HAZARDOUS WASTE SECTION**

**COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION**

**Date of Visit:** 4/23/16

**Reported by:** Phillip Orozco

**NO. 018**

**Subject:** CLE's Towing & Transport, LLC

**EPA ID # NCS000002312**

**Location:** 4205 Jeffries Rd. Durham, NC 27704  
Site address

**County:** Durham County

**Mailing Address:** Same as above.

**Owner:** Clifton L. Edwards

**Owner's Address:** Same as above

**Contact Person(s):** Clifton L. Edwards 919-824-6172

**Reason for Visit:** To investigate a report that a fire had occurred on Tuesday, 4/19/16. Initially, it was reported to be an auto salvage yard with the possibility of petroleum contamination occurring as a result of 43 cars being engulfed in the fire.

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**Report:**

The report of a fire came to the Hazardous Waste Section on 4/20/16 from Mary Whaley, Solid Waste Section, after she learned that Durham County Emergency Management had responded to the fire on Tuesday (4/19/16) afternoon. Initially, it was reported to be an auto salvage yard but in reality CLE's Towing & Transport operates from this site. It has not been a salvage yard in the past.

The owner/operator, Clifton L. Edwards, was very cooperative and pro-active in his corrective actions. As of the day of inspection, only 10 of the 43 cars burned in the fire remain on-site. He planned to move all cars & material that could be scrapped or recycled. After clearing the area, Mr. Edwards was planning to scrape the top layer of soil at the site and stockpile it on plastic, berm it and cover it with plastic. He knows a lot of people in the towing and scrap yards business. Apparently, someone had told him to manage the soil as such. He stated that he is willing to take any contaminated soil to a permitted soil landfarm. He would appreciate guidance on the requirements to do so.

He hoped to have everything mentioned above completed by the end of April, 2016. On the day of this visit, most of the tires without wheels had been taken to the county landfill. White appliances were being loaded into an open box trailer. They were to be taken to Foss Recycling in Durham, NC.

As a result of the investigation by the Hazardous Waste Section of a fire at the site of CLE's Towing & Transport (CLE's), site conditions exist which may warrant a review by the UST Section. Consequently, we referred this investigation to the UST Section for consideration.

The possibility of petroleum contaminated soil existed at the subject site. Based on past analytical results from soil samples taken at scrap yards and salvage yards, the Hazardous Waste Section (Section) believes that it is not likely to have jurisdiction over the incident. Past analytical results received by the Section have shown the

type of contamination associated with this incident does not fall within the regulatory definition of hazardous waste.

**Conclusion:**

No further action by the Hazardous Waste Section appears to be necessary. The investigation was referred to the UST Waste Section, DWM-DEQ.

  
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**Phillip G. Orozco**

**Environmental Senior Specialist, NCDENR**

**Date: May 17, 2016**

Attachment: Pictures of the area

cc: Central Files  
Phillip Orozco, Environmental Senior Specialist

**Activity Type:** Complaint (FCI/CMP)

**CLE's Towing & Transport, LLC**  
**4205 Jeffries Rd., Durham, NC**  
**4/23/16**





A water well on-site. It appeared to be upgradient from the fire. Mr. Edwards stated that it had not been used for over 20 years.



Cars burned in the fire.



Area of Fire. Forty-three cars burned in the fire.



CLE's Towing & Transport, LLC  
4205 Jeffries Rd., Durham, NC  
4/23/16



No motors, transmissions or batteries were in the cars that burned.



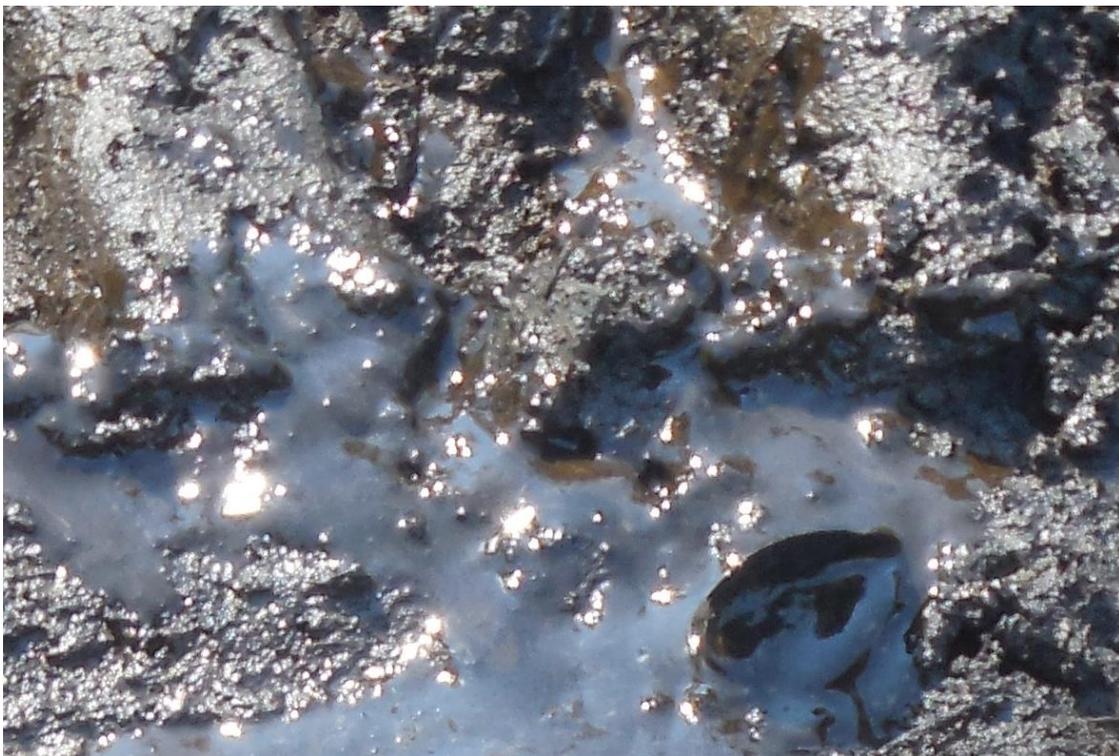


No petroleum sheen seen on many puddles of water near the fire.





A few puddles down gradient from the cars & fire did seem to have a petroleum sheen on the water.





White appliances going for scrap.



15-20 other cars were observed at the back of the property. As a towing company, Mr. Edwards has stored vehicles on the property but does not sell car parts.



Styrofoam observed at the back of the property. This trailer was opened and found to contain tools and furniture and misc. material.



**DIVISION OF WASTE MANAGEMENT  
HAZARDOUS WASTE SECTION  
April 19, 2016**

TO: Mark Powers  
Branch Head, UST Section  
Division of Waste Management, NCDEQ

FROM: Phillip G. Orozco  
Environmental Senior Specialist  
Hazardous Waste Section, NCDEQ

REFERRAL: Report of possible petroleum contaminated soil at  
CLE's Towing & Transport, LLC, 4205 Jeffries Rd., Durham, NC  
Durham County

As a result of the investigation by the Hazardous Waste Section of a fire at the site of CLE's Towing & Transport (CLE's), site conditions exist which may warrant a review by the UST Section. Consequently, we refer this investigation to the UST Section for consideration.

The possibility of petroleum contaminated soil exists. Based on past analytical results from soil samples taken at scrap yards and salvage yards, the Hazardous Waste Section (Section) believes that it is not likely to have jurisdiction over the incident. Past analytical results received by the Section have shown the type of contamination associated with this incident does not fall within the regulatory definition of hazardous waste.

The report of the fire came to me on 4/20/16 from Mary Whaley, Solid Waste Section, after she learned that Durham County Emergency Management had responded to the fire on Tuesday (4/19/16) afternoon. Initially, it was reported to be an auto salvage yard but in reality CLE's Towing & Transport operates from this site. It has not been a salvage yard in the past.

The owner/operator, Clifton L. Edwards, has been very cooperative and pro-active in his corrective actions. As a today, only 10 of the 43 cars burned in the fire remain on-site. He plans to move all cars & material that can be scrapped or recycled. After clearing the area, Mr. Edwards is planning to scrape the top layer of soil at the site and stockpile it on plastic, berm it and cover it with plastic. He knows a lot of people in the towing and scrap yards business. Apparently, someone told him to manage the soil as such. He has stated that he is willing to take any contaminated soil to a permitted soil landfarm. He would appreciate guidance on the requirements to do so.

He hopes to have everything mentioned above completed by Friday. Please feel free to call me at if you need more information or have any questions pertaining to this matter.

Attachment: Pictures of the area

**From:** Romanski, Autumn  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 20, 2016 4:58 PM  
**To:** Gore, Deborah <[deborah.gore@ncdenr.gov](mailto:deborah.gore@ncdenr.gov)>  
**Cc:** Whaley, Mary <[mary.whaley@ncdenr.gov](mailto:mary.whaley@ncdenr.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Fire in Durham County - Private property used as a car storage and dump site

Hi Deborah and Mary,

I visited the site today and spoke with Mark Shale of Durham-No county or other permits could be found, but the site has been used to dump wastes of all kinds over the years including tires.

\*I will forward the photos shortly – need to download to the computer.

The extent of deemed permitted fire fighting water discharge was minimum and did not reach Ellerbe Creek. The streams nearby were clear with no evident impacts from the fire or oil and grease.

\*Observed the storage of cars (oil and liquid stains on ground) now burned out cars(43 of them) and the dumping and burying of misc. waste.

\*Alerted NCDEMLR regarding stormwater – but it is unlikely the towing business would be required to have a NCG10 stormwater permit – they did not seem to be selling parts, or scraping/crushing cars, but rather just parking them on the property.

Mary- once you get the photos I send - you can decide if solid waste would check it out or not?

Thank you both for your time.

Autumn

**From:** Gore, Deborah  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 20, 2016 11:44 AM  
**To:** Romanski, Autumn <[Autumn.Romanski@ncdenr.gov](mailto:Autumn.Romanski@ncdenr.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: Fire in Durham County

FYI

**From:** Whaley, Mary  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 20, 2016 11:42 AM  
**To:** Gore, Deborah <[deborah.gore@ncdenr.gov](mailto:deborah.gore@ncdenr.gov)>  
**Cc:** Powers, Mark <[mark.powers@ncdenr.gov](mailto:mark.powers@ncdenr.gov)>; Burch, Brent <[brent.burch@ncdenr.gov](mailto:brent.burch@ncdenr.gov)>; Hammonds, Andrew <[andrew.hammonds@ncdenr.gov](mailto:andrew.hammonds@ncdenr.gov)>; [mschell@dconc.gov](mailto:mschell@dconc.gov)  
**Subject:** RE: Fire in Durham County

After receiving the below e mail this AM, I called Mark Schell, EM, Durham County, and he said that the fire was at an illegal junk yard. He said that 43 cars were burnt up, as well as other things at the site, including an old cabin. Mark said that there was junk scattered all around the property and that anything could have been at that site. He was concerned with all fluids that could have gotten into the soil and their possible contamination. There is not a pile of tires at the site, where we would have been involved to insure they were disposed of correctly. He said that there are some areas where you can see the metal belts from tires. I am sending this to you all, as it is not really a situation where solid waste would be involved, and it would be something that you should possibly be involved in?? If anyone has any questions, please let me know.

Mary Whaley

Environmental Senior Specialist  
NC Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Waste Management, Solid Waste Section  
Division Address: 1646 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1646  
Office Address: P.O. Box 59, Oxford, NC 27565

[mary.whaley@ncdenr.gov](mailto:mary.whaley@ncdenr.gov)

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<http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/wm/sw>



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P Go Green! Print this email only when necessary. Thank you for helping NCDEQ be

**From:** Gore, Deborah  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 20, 2016 7:05 AM  
**To:** Whaley, Mary <[mary.whaley@ncdenr.gov](mailto:mary.whaley@ncdenr.gov)>  
**Cc:** Lewis, Steven <[steve.lewis@ncdenr.gov](mailto:steve.lewis@ncdenr.gov)>  
**Subject:** Fire in Durham County

Mary,

I received a call from the Emergency Operations Center yesterday evening regarding a fire on Jefferies Rd in Durham at an illegal junk yard. Mark Shell, the Durham County EM, requested to talk to Water Quality, Air Quality and Solid Waste. I called the emergency pager number for Waste Management but

did not get a call back. Mr. Shell's number is 919-201-6638 if you would like to make contact with him today.

Thank you,

**Deborah Gore**

PERCS Unit Supervisor  
Division of Water Resources  
Department of Environmental Quality

919-807-6383 office  
919-807-6489 fax  
[deborah.gore@ncdenr.gov](mailto:deborah.gore@ncdenr.gov)

1617 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1617



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