The Bucket Brigade

Organizing a Community Campaign

Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League
Where Does Air Pollution Come From?

- Industrial pollutants are emitted by:
  - chemical plants
  - dry cleaners
  - asphalt plants
  - paper mills
  - incinerators
  - refineries, etc.
Why a Bucket Brigade?

- Bucket Brigades train teams of community volunteers to seek out and eliminate local sources of poisonous air emissions.
The Bucket Brigade Program

- The Bucket Brigade allows residents living near emission sources to take samples whenever pollution occurs, even at night or on weekends when state agencies typically cannot respond.

- The Bucket Brigade gives citizens’ groups a tool to check out the air wherever you live.

- It's like an environmental community watch program.
What is the Bucket?

- The Bucket is our patented device for capturing a sample of air for laboratory analysis in three minutes.

- The EPA-approved grab sampling Bucket is a reliable yet economical way to measure air pollution.
The Bucket and Tedlar Sample Bag
What Does It Measure?

- 101 air pollutants are detected by the device including:
  - dichloromethane
  - hydrogen sulfide
  - perchloroethylene
  - vinyl chloride
  - toluene
  - benzene
The Method

1-Residents living near air pollution sources form a neighborhood team.
2-Residents do neighborhood surveillance, record information about wind direction and odors.
3-Residents learn to operate the patented Bucket sampling equipment.
4-Residents take a sample of toxic air pollution.
5-Residents send the sample to an EPA-certified laboratory.
6-Lab does tests and sends results to residents and BREDL.
7-BREDL sends results to expert for study.
8-Residents release results.
Four Tools of Gathering Evidence

- **1 Log Book**
  Residents write down what they see, hear, and smell.

- **2 Complaint to public officials**
  A written request for action by state officials.

- **3 Camera**
  Pictures or video which are evidence of what happened.

- **4 Bucket air sampling device**
  A method of collecting a sample of air for laboratory testing.

*Always keep copies of all your evidence in a safe place!*
The Price Tag

- Equipment costs $250 each
  *The bucket can be re-used many, many times if properly cared for.*

- Laboratory from $200-$450 each
  *Depending on the number of toxic compounds analyzed.*

- Overnight shipping $15.
  *To send the sample to the lab.*

- A biannual calibration test costs about $400.
  *To check on the accuracy of the equipment*

- **To reduce costs gather as much information as possible *before* taking your first sample.**
## Odor Log Book

A system for recording information about noxious odors from industrial facilities.

**Bredi**

Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League

Information gathered on this form will help determine when and where testing of air samples should take place.

### Important:
Please fill out completely. This information necessary for us to locate where you are in relation to the source of pollution.

**Your Name:**

**Your Address:**
Put street address, your physical or 911 address, not a PO box.

City____________________ State __ Zip ______

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<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TIME (AM or PM)</th>
<th>WHAT DID YOU EXPERIENCE?</th>
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<td>Any smell? health effects? smoke? noises?</td>
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Young pollution sleuths and community activists fight for healthier air.
One person speaking alone may not be heard, but many people speaking with one voice cannot be ignored.

Janet Marsh, May 1984

The Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League

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