

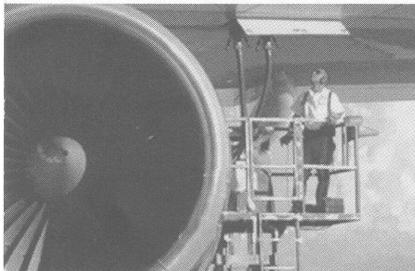
A Public Guide To
JETFUEL



Answers to Your Questions
from the
Maryland Aviation Administration

WHY DO I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT JET FUEL?

■ On January 20, 1998, a World Airways jet aircraft with a malfunctioning valve discharged a small amount of jet fuel near Dorsey Road as the aircraft returned to Baltimore/Washington International Airport (BWI) because of an onboard medical emergency.



Incidents like this one are extremely rare. Most fuel discharges are at high altitudes so that jet fuel vaporizes and does not reach land. If the World Airways' valve had not malfunctioned, this discharge would not have occurred over

land. Emergency response officials at the Maryland Department of the Environment advise that this was the first fuel discharge in the BWI area since MDE was created in 1987. BWI officials, some of whom have worked at the airport for more than 20 years, also are unable to recall any previous airborne fuel discharges in the vicinity of BWI. In addition, some of the aircraft that serve BWI are not equipped to discharge fuel when they are airborne.

You will most likely never come in contact with jet fuel. But the Maryland Department of the Environment and the Maryland Aviation Administration have prepared guidelines to explain the hazards and appropriate responses should a fuel discharge occur again.

WHAT ARE JET FUELS?

■ Jet fuels are colorless liquids with a fuel oil-like odor. They are very similar to kerosene in color, odor and consistency. They are generally named JP-3, JP-4, JP-5, or *Turbine Engine Aviation Fuel*, and are lighter in weight than water. But no matter what the name, they have similar risks.

ARE JET FUELS A FIRE HAZARD?

■ All jet fuels are either combustible or flammable. However, once the fuel has been expelled from the aircraft, flammability is not an issue because the fuel is spread out in such a thin mist that fire is not considered a risk.

ARE JET FUELS A HEALTH HAZARD?

■ All jet fuels are a skin and eye irritant and are harmful if swallowed (see First Aid). They can cause some physical symptoms, including headache and nausea. They also can have an irritating odor.

WHAT FIRST AID PROCEDURES SHOULD BE FOLLOWED?

■ If jet fuel is ever swallowed, DO NOT INDUCE VOMITING and call your doctor. If the jet fuel comes in contact with eyes, flush generously with water. Washing with mild detergent will remove fuel from skin. For more information about First Aid, please contact the Maryland Poison Control Center at **1-800-222-1222**.

WHAT ABOUT OTHER JET FUEL

CONTACT?

■ If jet fuel comes in contact with vehicles, homes, furniture, plants or other objects, washing with mild detergent will remove it.

WHAT ABOUT JET FUEL ON PETS AND WILDLIFE?

■ If your pet has come in contact with jet fuel, you can clean the animal by washing with mild detergent. If you feel your pet has ingested jet fuel either by direct contact or by cleaning its coat, contact your veterinarian at once.



If you see any birds, including ducks, geese or other waterfowl, that have come into contact with jet fuel, please call the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals of Anne Arundel County at **410-268-4388**.

WHERE SHOULD I REPORT JET FUEL DISCHARGES?

■ If you are concerned that a jet fuel discharge has occurred from an aircraft or any other source, please call 911 immediately. You may also contact the Maryland Department of the Environment's Emergency Response Division at **1-866-633-4686** or the Maryland Aviation Administration at **410-859-7806**, 24 hours a day.



Maryland Aviation Administration
410-859-7111