

Hillsborough County Operation Cleansweep Pilot Collection, 1997

Hillsborough County is a mostly urban county on the central west coast of Florida with a population of about 900,000 (in 1997). Tampa is a major urban center with a diverse economy. There are significant agricultural activities in the eastern half of the county.

A collection was held on Saturday, May 3, 1997 at the facility of a hazardous waste management company in Tampa, FL. Representatives from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Hillsborough County and United Agri Products were present.

Since participants started lining up before 7:00 a.m., resulting in a potentially dangerous traffic problem, it was decided to start the event at 7:30. Two hours later, at 9:30 a.m., the collection ended: the Operation Cleansweep pilot program had run out of funds. Accepting more pesticides would have created a disposal bill beyond the ability of program funding to pay.

The on-site team accepted all items from the first 5 participants. From the next 20 or more participants, only the more toxic pesticides, such as chlordane, DDT, lead arsenate, Timek, parathion and endosulfan, were accepted. Many of the participants who were not served were unhappy but understood that the funding had been used up.

It is the intention of the Operation Cleansweep Steering Committee to begin the 2000/2001 Cleansweep collections in Hillsborough County, where the pilot program had ended.

Data Sources for This Report:

1. "Hillsborough Collection Day" fax to CSUP Working Group from Burt McKee, United Agri Products, May 5, 1997.
2. Personal communication, Burt McKee, Central Florida Regional Planning Council, via phone to Jack Price, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, October 18, 2002.