



*Pavement Coatings Technology Council*

To The Editors: High Country Press, Wautaga Democrat, The Mountain Times

July 29, 2010

The Pavement Coatings Technology Council would like to thank the Upper Wautaga Riverkeeper for helping our campaign to educate contractors and consumers about the necessity to watch the weather before applying pavement sealer, parking lot striping or other exterior coatings. Our web site (<http://www.pavementcouncil.org/>) is adding a link to the Riverkeeper's video as a vivid illustration of what can go wrong if proper application procedures are not followed. The events in Boone on July 17 are rare, but are a reminder that failure to allow enough time for the sealant to cure before it rains not only affects the sealing job but can have unwanted environmental consequences. Unfortunately rain events cannot be predicted with 100% accuracy and when not properly tracked can negatively impact any number of activities including lawn chemical application, road repairs using chip seal, bridge painting and agricultural use of fertilizers and pesticides. The Council is interested in obtaining the results of any investigation into the Hodges Creek fish kill. We suspect that the cause of death is suffocation related to gill plates blocked by the sudden influx of sealant particles rather than systemic toxicity. The North Carolina Department of the Environment and Natural Resources keeps track of fish kill events in the state (<http://h2o.enr.state.nc.us/esb/Fishkill/fishkillmain.htm>). Many are attributed to natural causes such as reduced oxygen in waters during hot weather or algal blooms. Others are, unfortunately, related to accidents such as oil or fertilizer spills or, as seems to have been the case on July 17, when it rained too soon after application of pavement sealer. Please visit the Pavement Coatings Technology Council's web site (<http://www.pavementcouncil.org/>) for information about sealant application best practices and about the contractor certification program.

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