



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
FACT SHEET #1
Preservation Aviation, Inc.
10800 Burbank Blvd., North Hollywood, CA
May 28, 2004



Background

The United States Environmental Protection Agency's Emergency Response Team is investigating the Preservation Aviation site in North Hollywood, CA at the request of the Los Angeles County Health Department. The site was a recycling facility--mostly for airplane gages used in vintage WWII airplanes. In the past, the gages were painted with radioactive paint containing Radium 226 to make them glow in the dark, as were many watch dials.

EPA's preliminary investigations have revealed high levels of radiation inside the building on the corner of Burbank Blvd. and Riverton St. as well as outside in the yard and along the edges of the fenced-off property. Preliminary estimates indicate that there are approximately one million gages inside the building and approximately 200 thousand in the fenced area outside. Radium 226 presents an inhalation (breathing) hazard. At this site, concern over exposure to Radium 226 is primarily within the structures themselves rather than outside.

What will EPA do?

EPA's role is to remove the radiation threat and all other hazardous chemicals from the Preservation Aviation site. The work will happen in several stages. The first stage will occur within the next seven days and will include an investigation and assessment to identify other chemicals that may be present. Part of this assessment will include determining if any hazardous substances have moved off-site due to storm water run-off or air vents on the roof of the main building. Random debris and trash will also be removed. In addition, a second building on the property will be investigated. After this first stage, EPA will need approximately one week to assess the results, formulate a plan and find a licensed facility that will accept the radioactive materials. Following these activities, EPA will assess the building itself and the soil, asphalt and concrete outside the building.

During these activities you will see workers wearing protective clothing and using respirators (especially inside the structures) to avoid the possibility of inhaling radioactive particles into their lungs. This does NOT mean that people in the surrounding areas are at risk from the site. Precautions will be taken to ensure harmful levels of hazardous substances do not leave the site. In addition, you will see workers using machinery to measure

For More Information

If you have questions or concerns about the Preservation Aviation site,
please do not hesitate to contact either of the EPA staff listed below:

Robert Wise
EPA's On Scene Coordinator
(562) 889-2572
wise.robert@epa.gov

Alhelí Baños
EPA's Community Involvement Coordinator
(213) 452-3369 (hablo español)
banos.alheli@epa.gov