



# State of Maryland

## Department of the Environment

### Emergency Response Division

1800 Washington Blvd., Suite 105 – Baltimore, Maryland. 21230-1721  
Office 410-537-3975 Facsimile 410-537-3932  
24-HOUR SPILL REPORTING 1-866-633-4686



## Amended Report of Observation

**Incident Type** : MERCURY RELEASE **HAZ**

**Incident Location** : 49 [REDACTED] CROWSON AVE **BC**  
BALTIMORE, MD 21212

**Incident Date / Time** : **From:** 1200 **Hours on** 27SEP12 **Thursday**  
**To :** **Hours on** ddMONyy **(DOW)**

**Responsible Party** : [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] CROWSON AVE  
BALTIMORE, MD 21212  
610-717-2975

At 13:39 hours 27 Sept, 2012 MDE-ERD received a call for assistance from a homeowner in Baltimore city. The owner reported that a plumbing contractor had just left his residence after removing a hot water expansion tank from the second floor. After sawing off the tank and removing it from the house the owner observed, what he thought was, a quantity of liquid mercury on the floor where the work had been completed. The plumbers could not imagine where the Hg came from and left the residence with the tank in the back of their van.

After researching Hg the homeowner contacted MDE. Units 5605 and 5606 were dispatched to the scene.

Upon arrival I met Mr [REDACTED] and spoke with him about his problem. He told me that 2 workers from Saffer Plumbing and Heating (Earl Moxley and Tim Ramsburg) had been in his residence removing a hot water expansion tank from a small room on the second floor. After cutting through the pipe attached to the tank the workers noticed mercury spilling from the tank. The tank was laid on the floor then carried downstairs and out the front door. The tank was laid on the ground prior to being placed into the back of one of the Saffer vans. After leaving the residence the van was driven to Saffer's office located at 8925 Old Harford Rd in Parkville MD 21234 (410-665-4238). The van was parked with the tank in the back overnight.

I entered the residence with a Jerome 413 x and began getting elevated readings. On the first floor landing the meter registered 0.020 mg/m<sup>3</sup>. As I climbed the stairs beads of mercury were visible on the treads. At the top of the stairs a right turn led to the closet where the work was performed. Meter readings inside the door were 0.073 mg/m<sup>3</sup>. Different paint colors showed where the tank had been on the wall. A sawed off pipe next to a radiator located in a small wooden cabinet showed cuttings from the pipe but I also observed multiple mercury beads on the shelf and in the cracks between the hardwood floor. There was a trail of mercury from the closet to the front door.

I also inspected the basement. The pipe to the tank had been left in place to be used as a conduit. Mercury could be visualized in the sludge inside of the pipe and multiple beads were seen on the floor. The heating and hot water systems had both been replaced in recent years but both showed combinations of previous system parts. Records showed the

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dwelling having been constructed in 1910. I advised the homeowner of the possibility of a Honeywell heat generator having been part of the heating system at some time in the past. The device is no longer present but mercury from it could still be in the piping.

Mr. [REDACTED] wife and child had already left the dwelling and I advised Mr. [REDACTED] not to stay in the house either due to the levels of mercury vapor detected. I also contacted the plumbing company and had the workers sequester their clothes and boots.

28 Sept, 2012

I met Mr. David Saffer at his office to examine the tank and meter the vans and clothing. The tank had been sitting in the back of the van wrapped in plastic. Meter levels in the van were 0.08 mg/m<sup>3</sup><sup>1</sup> but when I sampled the cut off pipe attached to the tank my meter went off scale. We removed the tank and placed it in a plastic trash can and wrapped it in a drop cloth. When the 2 workers arrived I sampled their clothing. Earl's clothing registered a 0.285 mg/m<sup>3</sup><sup>1</sup> and Tim's a 0.050 mg/m<sup>3</sup><sup>1</sup>. Both men have small children or pregnant women at home so their clothing will be condemned. Having contacted both men prior to reaching their homes they were able to remove their clothing prior to entry so I have no concern of them contaminating their dwellings. Both were advised to ventilate the vans as much as possible.

The expansion tank was taken to MDE field office in Westport for storage until a clean up contractor can be hired.

1 Oct, 2012

Met Mr. [REDACTED] on site. I had advised him that the clean up would be an extended process so he needed to remove some items from the residence. I metered all materials prior to leaving property to prevent any spread of mercury.

Greg Ham USEPA met us on site and I gave him the tour. Greg is now up to speed on the incident and can begin to help should it be needed.

Footnote: <sup>1</sup> Readings recorded as ug/m<sup>3</sup> in the original report are corrected here to mg/m<sup>3</sup>

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**Incident Information Sheet****Invoice#:****Spill Date: 27 SEPT 2012****Day of Week: THURS****Type: HAZ****Origination of Spill: Hg SPILL IN RESIDENCE****Location: 49 [REDACTED] CROWSON AVE****City: BALTIMORE****County: BC****RESPONSIBLE PARTY: Bill To ( )****Driver/Individual:****Name:****SSN:****DOB:****Address:****City/State/Zip:****Phone:****Driver's License:****State:****COMPANY: Bill To ( )****Name:****Address:****City/State/Zip:****ATTN:****Phone:****FEIN:****VEHICLE (if applicable):****Year:****Make/Model:****Tag#:****State:****VIN#:****Truck#****INSURANCE COMPANY (list only if bill to be sent here):****Name:****Address:****City/State/Zip:****ATTN:****Phone:****Claim#:****MDE PERSONNEL/VEHICLE:**

Date	Start Time	End Time	Personnel Name	Type of Vehicle	Cost
9/27/12	14:00	19:00	IMBIEROWICZ	CLASS II	
9/27/12	14:00	19:00	JONES	CLASS II	
9/28/12	07:00	10:00	IMBIEROWICZ	CLASS II	
10/1/12	09:00	12:00	IMBIEROWICZ	CLASS II	

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