



U. S. Environmental Protection Agency

FACT SHEET

A.K. Stewart Science Center at Knoxville College Knoxville, Tennessee

No. 1

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This Site information update summarizes the response, ongoing activities, and next steps.

Contact Information

Neema Atashi, EPA
Community Involvement
Coordinator
(404) 317-9885

James Chesney, Knoxville
College Facilities Manager
(865) 640-6501

Eric Vreeland, City of
Knoxville Public
Information Officer
(865) 215-3480

Media Representatives should contact

James Pinkney, EPA
Public Affairs Specialist
(404) 562-9183

Additional Information

<http://epaosc.org/knoxvillecollege>

Site Background

The A.K. Stewart Science Building in Knoxville College (KC) is an unused laboratory facility located at 901 Knoxville College Drive Knoxville, TN. The facility is directly adjacent to residential neighborhoods. The facility has shown signs of trespassing and scrapping. Multiple windows are broken and the exterior doors are unsecured. Knoxville College has employed security to secure the campus.

Current Status

On June 5, 2014 the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) performed an inspection of the facility and found multiple leaking and damaged containers of hazardous substances and hazardous wastes throughout the three story facility. TDEC also observed many instances of incompatible and improper storage. After the inspection TDEC requested assistance from the U.S. EPA Region 4 Emergency Response and Removal Branch in performing a full assessment of the abandoned laboratory facility on the Knoxville College campus.

EPA crews entered the building on June 6, 2014 and observed thousands of chemical containers ranging in size from 5-gallons to milliliter volumes. There are 39 rooms and laboratories containing varied amounts of hazardous waste. Many containers are damaged and leaking. Hazards present include flammables, combustible, oxidizers, toxic, air reactive, corrosive, biological, and radioactive materials, as well as incompatible storage. Crews also detected elevated mercury levels throughout the building. Crews monitored the air outside of the building and did not detect any radiation levels, mercury levels or other hazardous substance.

Incident Objectives

1. Protect the health and safety of the community and response personnel
2. Secure the Site to limit trespass or other unauthorized entry;
3. Conduct an inventory of all materials stored at the Site;
4. Stabilize hazardous materials pending testing and disposal;
5. Segregate hazardous materials into hazard categories;
6. Sample for hazard categorization and disposal profiling;
7. Consolidate, re-package, over-pack, and lab-pack materials;
8. Dispose, treat, and/or recycle materials at an off-site location;
9. Conduct additional cleanup activities that may include demolition, excavation of contaminated soils, and/or decontamination of personnel and equipment, as necessary, to provide a safe and efficient work environment;
10. Conduct comprehensive air monitoring for to ensure employee and community protection; and,
11. Coordinate response and communication with Local and State Agencies.