

## Ogden Swift Building Site Update

USEPA Region 8 Response Unit

4/12/2019 8:27:34 AM



### WEBSITE

<https://reponse.epa.gov/OgdenSwiftBuilding>

### SITE DESCRIPTION

The Ogden Swift Building sits on the banks of the Weber River in Ogden, Utah. The facility was formerly a meat packing plant. It was eventually sold to a private business which used it to store surplus military items (including chemicals). A portion of the building was also leased to a chemical manufacturer which went bankrupt, leaving its inventory behind. The Site is currently owned by the City of Ogden and is being considered for re-development into a recreational resource.

In 2018, an EPA Targeted Brownfields Assessment was conducted on behalf of the City of Ogden at the Site. This assessment documented more than 40,000 abandoned containers of chemicals including flammables, corrosives, toxic substances, water reactives, potential explosives and other dangerous chemicals.

The Site was referred to EPA's Emergency Response Unit.

### INITIAL RESPONSE

EPA's Emergency Response Unit determined that a cleanup was warranted and the City of Ogden granted EPA access to the property on March 19, 2019. On March 29, 2019, EPA initiated response operations, began mobilizing equipment and established the following goals:

- Keep Stakeholders Informed
- Mobilize Resources and Establish Work Zones
- Collect and Bulk Hazardous Substances
- Treat and Dispose of Hazardous Substances
- Demobilize Resources.

### CURRENT ACTIVITIES

#### Operational Period

4/6 - 4/12, 2019

### **Response Objectives**

1. Continue air monitoring at perimeter and in work zones.
2. Remove debris and clear safe pathways throughout the facility.
3. Begin to label, stage, sample, and categorize containers.
4. Sort and consolidate water reactive substances.
5. Clear rooms to be used as container staging areas.

### **Response Operations**

1. Air monitoring conducted in the work zones only shows elevated air concentrations directly associate with EPA's work. This is usually with the opening of containers for sampling, or in some cases when clearing debris uncovers leaking containers. All personnel in the work areas are wearing respiratory protection. There have been no elevated levels measured in the Site perimeter air monitoring.
2. Crews have completed clearing entry points into the basement and first floor of the former Meat Packing building, and have cleared paths to two of the locations where numerous (several thousand) containers have been found. Crews have also successfully cleared the rooms in the basement and first floor of the Meat Packing building that will be used for container staging and sampling. The team removed all the debris from the storage bay adjacent to the Admin Building and staged and segregated the water reactive substances (CaH and Magnesium based MRE heaters ). Crews also found and segregated several hundred containers of flammable materials and what appear to be containers of arsenic based rat poison. A more exact counting of these containers is in progress. In the process of removing the debris from these areas several hundred containers were taken to the staging areas. This has resulted in over 480 yds<sup>3</sup> of solid waste being sent off-site for disposal. In addition 280 yds<sup>3</sup> of scrap metal has been sent off-site for recycling.
3. Crews constructed an outside drum staging area and began to label and sample containers located in the outside "Yard" areas. Over 180 containers have been sampled and Hazard Categorization testing is underway.

### **Planned Activities**

OSC Notices Site Update

- Finalize communication pathways with stakeholders.
- Continue conducting air monitoring at the perimeter and in work zones.
- Continue clearing safe pathways throughout the facility and establishing work zones.
- Prioritize the removal of hazardous substances and begin to address the most urgent situations.