



Rockland Warehouse Fire Site

Rockland, MA

U.S. EPA | HAZARDOUS WASTE PROGRAM AT EPA NEW ENGLAND

THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND REMOVAL PROGRAM

responds to chemical, biological and radiological releases and large-scale national emergencies, including homeland security incidents. EPA conducts short term cleanups in the removal program when necessary to protect human health and the environment by either funding response actions directly or overseeing and enforcing actions conducted by potentially responsible parties.



BACKGROUND:

On Wednesday, March 22, 2017, a fire broke out at a large warehouse located at 67 Park Street in Rockland, MA. The fire completely engulfed the warehouse building and, while firefighters worked to contain it, debris and embers drifted and fell onto neighboring properties. Some of the debris was determined to contain asbestos. EPA removed asbestos containing debris from the backyards of 8 properties that abut the site. The remaining structure however still poses a hazard as asbestos containing material continues to fall onto some of these properties. After coordinating with MassDEP and the property owner, EPA is making plans to demolish the remaining warehouse structure beginning as early as this week.

COMPLETED TO-DATE

- The burned building has been razed except for the portion where drums are located. The property is secured by existing fencing, and a length of temporary chain link fence installed by the demolition company along Park Street.
- MassDEP installed temporary, high-visibility fence at residential properties to limit access to areas impacted by building debris.
- EPA collected asbestos-containing material (ACM) from 8 residential properties that abut the warehouse site. Twenty-one drums of ACM were shipped off site for disposal.

PROPOSED ACTIONS

- Demolish the remaining portion of the warehouse structure that was not demolished as part of the fire-suppression effort.
- Tarps and/or polyethylene sheets will be placed on the lawns of residential properties to contain any ACM that might fall there as a result of the demolition.
- Debris will be consolidated only as necessary for safety, to accomplish other required tasks, and/or to prevent re-contamination of residential property.
- After demolition, MassDEP plans to cover debris while they work with the property owner to develop a more permanent solution.
- Material from the building demolition will remain on site. MassDEP is working with the property owners to plan for final disposition of material.

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AIR MONITORING

EPA will set up monitoring stations around the perimeter of the site during demolition. If the monitors show any exceedances, work will be paused, conditions evaluated, and additional precautions implemented. On past projects, air monitoring has demonstrated that keeping demolition debris wet while actively working on site prevents ACM from migrating away from the work area.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

EPA estimates that demolishing of the remaining, fire-damaged portion of the warehouse structure will not exceed one week. EPA is making plans to begin demolition as early as this week.

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

While EPA is taking measures to limit the spread of ACM, EPA and the Rockland Board of Health continue to advise residents to avoid handling debris that comes onto their property from the fire-damaged warehouse.