

EPA Emergency Response Site Update

North Salt Lake Chemicals

June 6, 2023

Safety Message

The chemicals and, in particular the large amount of mercury at the residence, could be hazardous to human health. Responders must exercise caution.

EPA's Response Team is blocking one lane of traffic in front of the residence and the sidewalk has been closed.

Site Description

On May 23, 2023, Davis County Department of Health requested assistance from Utah Department of Environmental Quality (UDEQ) at a private residence in North Salt Lake, Utah. The residence contains numerous containers of hazardous chemicals that were collected by the resident over approximately 30 years. The chemicals include several gallons of elemental mercury.

UDEQ staff visited the residence and referred the incident to EPA Emergency Response which deployed a Response Team to the residence on June 5, 2023 to secure and dispose of the chemicals.

The majority of the chemicals are in the garage of the residence. Most of the containers are intact although there is significant mercury contamination in the garage.

Site Objectives

- Safety of the public and response personnel is top priority.
- Stabilize the source area to prevent the release of hazardous substances.
- Minimize or eliminate threats to human health posed by the hazardous chemicals.
- Collect, bulk and dispose of hazardous chemicals.
- Provide timely and accurate communication of response information to the public and affected stakeholders.

Operations Period Objectives

1. Establish air monitoring in and around the residence.
2. Begin to address mercury contamination in garage.
3. Begin to process chemical containers in garage.
4. Evaluate mercury contamination in home.

Operations Period Accomplishments

EPA's Response Team established its work zones and began air monitoring for mercury and VOCs in and around the residence. Readings showed significant mercury contamination in the garage. Although the data from the living space of the residence indicates that the indoor air quality has been affected by the mercury in the garage, no discrete sources of elemental

mercury have been detected inside the home at this time. No levels of concern were detected along the perimeter of the property.

The Team is currently focused on the garage of the residence. The containers that were known to contain mercury were collected and secured in new containers. The crew used mercury specific vacuums to collect beads of elemental mercury in the garage and began mercury decontamination procedures on the homeowners' belongings in the garage. The Team also began inventorying the chemical containers in the garage for disposal.

Officials from Davis County Health Department and UDEQ visited the Site. South Davis Metro Fire's HazMat Team toured the Site to review hazards and Site conditions should their assistance be required.



Conditions in the garage.



Response Team member at work.