

EPA Emergency Response Site Update
North Salt Lake Chemicals
June 7, 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. Continue air monitoring in and around the residence.
2. Continue to address mercury contamination in garage.
3. Continue to process chemical containers in garage.

Operations Period Accomplishments

EPA's Response Team performed a secondary screening of the living areas in the residence. At this time, results continue to indicate that there is not a source of recoverable mercury in the home. This suggests that the indoor air contamination is a result of the mercury in the garage. As a precaution, the Team plans to dispose of several floor rugs and will decontaminate some flooring in high traffic areas to/from the garage. A limited section of carpeting may also be removed.

The Team is still working its way through mercury contamination in the garage. Crew members are discovering beads of mercury, especially in one area towards the back. Personal items are being removed from the garage and tested. Most items are showing contamination. The crew erected a tent to facilitate the decontamination these items. The decontamination process involves using a chemical reagent to bind the mercury and/or allowing the items to vent. Air monitoring data is being collected inside and outside the tent throughout this process. The items will then be screened for mercury once again before being returned to the property owner. Items that cannot be decontaminated are being disposed of.

The Team is also continuing to collect and process other chemicals from the garage for disposal. These chemicals are being sorted into hazard classes and waste streams before being packaged into secure containers for transport.

The Response Team is working long hours and posting a night watch during the overnight hours.

Air monitoring results from outside the garage, including the decontamination tent, continue to show no levels of concern.



Response Team working in the garage.



Response Team preparing first load for disposal.