

EPA Emergency Response Site Update
North Salt Lake Chemicals
June 8, 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 is making every effort to decontaminate items in the garage so that they can be returned to the property owner. The process is tedious and involves using a chemical reagent to bind the mercury and/or allowing the items to vent. The items will then be screened for mercury once again before being returned to the property owner. Items that cannot be decontaminated will be disposed of at an appropriate disposal facility. Beads of mercury are still being regularly collected especially in the back of the garage as items are moved for decontamination.



Decontaminating items in the garage.

The Team has made significant progress collecting and packaging containers of chemicals for disposal. These containers are being sorted into hazard classes and waste streams before being packaged into secure containers for transport. There are roughly 10 containers with contents that cannot be identified. These chemicals will be tested and processed on June 9 and all the chemicals should be packaged for transport at that time.

EPA's Team will be working through the weekend and one lane of traffic will remain closed. The crew will continue to work long hours and post a night watch.

Air monitoring results outside the garage including the decontamination tent and the perimeter of the property continue to show no levels of concern.



Traffic restriction at the Site.



Site Dog in charge of morale.