

EPA Emergency Response Site Update
North Salt Lake Chemicals
June 10, 2023

Safety Message

EPA's Response Team is blocking one lane of traffic in front of the residence and the sidewalk has been closed. The Team requests neighbors and visitors to the Site exercise caution.

[Website](#)

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.

Operations Period Accomplishments

EPA's Response Team transported roughly half of the chemicals collected in the garage to a facility provided by Davis County. The chemicals will be securely stored at this location while arrangements are made for disposal at an appropriate facility.

The Team removed the vast majority of the personal items from the garage that were contaminated with mercury. Items are continuing to be decontaminated and those things that pass screening post-contamination are being released to the property owner. Items that cannot be decontaminated are being disposed of. Beads of mercury are still being collected in the garage but their presence is greatly reduced.

The living areas of the residence were screened for a third time. As before, the Team was unable to locate recoverable sources of mercury and air quality measurements for mercury were significantly lower. A surprisingly high reading was measured in a washing machine but it is not impacting indoor air quality. The Response Team has a few theories on how that happened and the situation is being addressed.

Chemicals being secured for transport.



Items from garage being dried during the decontamination process.

