

## **EPA Emergency Response Site Update**

North Salt Lake Chemicals

June 12, 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. The mercury has escaped containment and is affecting indoor air quality.

UDEQ staff visited the residence and quickly referred the incident to EPA Emergency Response. EPA deployed a Response Team to the residence on June 5, 2023 to secure and dispose of the chemicals as well as address mercury contamination in the home. The majority of the chemicals are in the garage of the residence. Most of the containers are intact and 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 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 heated and vented the garage overnight and then conducted an air monitoring sweep this morning. An additional area of tiny mercury beads and several hot spots were detected. The Team vacuumed the floor of the garage again and the mercury decontamination agent was applied to all the hard surfaces for a second time. The Team set up a mercury meter to run overnight in the garage, closed all the doors and windows, and initiated a clearance run. The results of this clearance run will determine whether or not the garage can be occupied by the homeowner once again.

All remaining chemicals and contaminated items from the garage were packaged and shipped off the property for disposal. All items that could be decontaminated were returned to the property owner. The Team will help the residents move these materials back into the garage after the area is cleared. Two cars were assessed, and no levels of concern were detected. The only area and items left for the Team to assess is a camper that is parked next to the driveway which was inaccessible due while the garage was being cleared out.

Air monitoring results continue to be collected across the property and no levels of concern have been detected.

*Conducting detailed air monitoring sweep in garage.*



*Setting up clearance air monitoring run.*

