

EPA Emergency Response Site Update
North Salt Lake Chemicals
June 13, 2023

[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. Complete removal of mercury contamination in garage.

Operations Period Accomplishments

EPA's Response Team let a mercury meter run overnight in the garage to determine residual contamination levels in the garage after the crew had completed its decontamination activities. To clear a residential property for mercury contamination, EPA targets a clearance level of 1,000 nanograms per cubic meter of air collected over an 8-hour period. The readings after all the cleanup work were 350 nanograms per cubic meter. The Team sealed the floor with epoxy as a precaution. The EPA consulted with the Davis County Department of Health and declared EPA's activities a success.

The Team entered the family's tow-behind camp trailer which was the last location that needed to be assessed. No mercury levels of concern were detected.

The EPA crew completed its assessment of all remaining personal items. The items which could be decontaminated will be moved back into the garage tomorrow.

Finally, EPA's Team began to demobilize its response assets. The street is now clear. The last daily update will be tomorrow; materials will continue to be appropriately disposed of.

Cleared garage with epoxy applied.



Unobstructed street and work sign.

