

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
Glacier Hotel Asbestos Site - Removal Polrep
Initial and Final Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region VIII

Subject: POLREP #1
Initial-Final Polrep Glacier Hotel Asbestos Site
Glacier Hotel Asbestos Site
B8C7
Cut Bank, MT
Latitude: 48.6363640 Longitude: -112.3335540

To:
From: Joyce Ackerman, OSC
Date: 8/30/2023
Reporting Period: through June 15, 2023

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Site Number:	B8C7	Contract Number:	
D.O. Number:		Action Memo Date:	3/15/2023
Response Authority:	CERCLA	Response Type:	Time-Critical
Response Lead:	EPA	Incident Category:	Removal Action
NPL Status:	Non NPL	Operable Unit:	
Mobilization Date:	5/17/2023	Start Date:	
Demob Date:	6/15/2023	Completion Date:	
CERCLIS ID:		RCRIS ID:	
ERNS No.:		State Notification:	
FPN#:		Reimbursable Account #:	

1.1.1 Incident Category

Time-Critical Removal Action

1.1.2 Site Description

This time-critical removal action involved the demolition, cleanup and proper disposal of debris from collapsed and partially-collapsed buildings known to contain friable asbestos. The buildings were damaged by a major fire and weathering and were vandalized. The buildings included a hotel, hotel addition, and lounge. The Site was identified by the City of Cut Bank as a safety concern, posing a potential asbestos exposure threat to nearby residents, children, and community members.

1.1.2.1 Location

The Site is located in the City of Cut Bank, Glacier County, Montana.

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

The principal contaminant of concern at the Site is asbestos, which is a hazardous substance as defined by Section 101 (14) of CERCLA. Human exposure to airborne asbestos fibers via inhalation has been proven to cause asbestosis, cancer, mesothelioma, and other respiratory diseases.

1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

The hotel and lounge were structurally unsound following the 2021 fire so local officials collapsed the walls so they wouldn't fall and cause damage or injury. The hotel addition was missing windows and walls and had a collapsed roof following the fire. Trespassers accessed the buildings.

A Phase II Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) was performed in June 2016 for the non-profit Sweetgrass Development Corporation, prior to the 2021 fire, and the ESA included an asbestos inspection. The 2016 inspection identified chrysotile asbestos in numerous building materials in the three buildings including but not limited to insulation, flooring, ceiling texture, roof flashing, and spray-on texture. Concentrations of chrysotile asbestos ranged from 2 percent to 65 percent. An EPA On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) conducted a removal site inspection (RSI) in April 2022. The asbestos-containing materials (ACM) were damaged, causing them to be friable. The City requested assistance from the EPA Response Unit to complete demolition and cleanup of the buildings and proper disposal of the asbestos.

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.1 Narrative

Due to the partial collapse and heavy damage of the hotel addition from fire, vandalism, and weathering and its lack of structural integrity, EPA made the decision to complete demolition of the building and dispose of its debris and the debris piles from the hotel and lounge as ACM.

2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

The removal action was initiated on May 17, 2023 and completed on June 15, 2023. Approximately 1,415 tons of ACM-contaminated debris were removed from the site. All activities that could have disturbed ACM were conducted using adequately wet methods to prevent the migration of asbestos fibers. All ACM-contaminated debris was disposed at the Shelby Landfill which is permitted to accept ACM. The START contractor conducted air monitoring for dust and air sampling for asbestos fibers during the removal action. The hotel basement and sub-grade areas underneath the hotel addition were backfilled with clean fill after all ACM-contaminated debris was removed.

2.1.3 Enforcement Activities, Identity of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)

EPA will conduct a review of potential enforcement activities.

2.1.4 Progress Metrics

<i>Waste Stream</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Manifest #</i>	<i>Treatment</i>	<i>Disposal</i>
ACM-debris		1,415 tons			

2.2 Planning Section

No information available at this time.

2.3 Logistics Section

No information available at this time.

2.4 Finance Section

No information available at this time.

2.5 Other Command Staff

No information available at this time.

3. Participating Entities

No information available at this time.

4. Personnel On Site

No information available at this time.

5. Definition of Terms

No information available at this time.

6. Additional sources of information

No information available at this time.

7. Situational Reference Materials

No information available at this time.