



REMOVAL

Lewis Chemical Removal Site Hyde Park, MA

U.S. EPA | HAZARDOUS WASTE PROGRAM AT EPA NEW ENGLAND

THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND REMOVAL PROGRAM

responds to chemical, biological and radiological releases and large-scale national emergencies, including homeland security incidents. EPA conducts short term cleanups in the removal program when necessary to protect human health and the environment by either funding response actions directly or overseeing and enforcing actions conducted by potentially responsible parties.



WHAT IS HAPPENING NOW

Removal work to clean up the Lewis Chemical Site located at 12-24 Fairmount Court Hyde Park, MA 02136 has been completed by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

To date, around 5,200 tons of soil contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), volatile organic compounds and heavy metals has been excavated and transported off-site to EPA-approved landfills.

WHAT TO EXPECT

Starting in May of 2024, EPA will begin to restore the site by bringing in clean soil to backfill areas where contaminated soils were removed. Water is continuing to be used to control dust from going into the air. Monitoring for contamination in the air also is continuing. Depending on the weather, remaining restoration work may take until the end of July 2024.

Community members may see EPA and contractors on-site, typically between 6:00 am and 4:30 pm, Mondays through Fridays. People also may see trucks coming in and out of the site at different times each day.

Informational signs about the cleanup are posted. They are near each entrance to the Fairmount Station and at the gate to the site. A traffic plan to truck off contaminated soil and to bring in clean soil was created and discussed with the Boston police and fire departments. A police officer directs traffic at the intersection of Fairmount Court and Fairmount Avenue during trucking. An EPA contractor is also present by the train station to direct traffic whenever a truck is moving past.

KEY CONTACTS:

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TOLL-FREE CUSTOMER SERVICE

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LEARN MORE AT:

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continued >



BACKGROUND

The 0.9-acre Lewis Chemical Site is in a neighborhood with businesses and residential homes in Hyde Park, Massachusetts. The site has three parcels, two of which are now owned by the City of Boston and the third is owned by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The entire site is next to the Neponset River. It is near the Fairmount Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority train station and railroad tracks.

Many different businesses operated at the City-owned properties in the late 1800s until the early 1960s. The Lewis Chemical Corp. operated at 12-24 Fairmount Court from 1963 to 1983. It collected, transported, stored, and processed hazardous wastes. In 1983, after an explosion and fire at the facility, Lewis Chemical's license to operate was revoked.

From 1983 to 2021, the city and DCR completed environmental assessments of their properties and found soil contaminated with, most notably, PCBs, volatile organic compounds, and metals.

In 2022, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and the city asked EPA to address hazardous substances existing at the site. In October 2022, EPA started an environmental investigation. In January 2023, EPA approved a \$3.9 million short-term cleanup plan, or removal action. EPA started the cleanup in April 2023. The goal is to remove the source of contamination by digging up and disposing of soil contaminated with PCBs and other hazardous substances and replacing it with clean fill.

For more information on these contaminants:

PCBs <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tfacts17.pdf>

Tetrachloroethylene <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tfacts18.pdf>

Trichloroethylene <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tfacts19.pdf>

Lead <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tfacts13.pdf>



Cleanup efforts at the Lewis Chemical Site